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Preface.

It is with considerable diffidence that I have taken up the task of completing the editing of this volume, upon which the late Mr. Earwaker was engaged at the time of his death. The completion of a half-finished work is always attended with difficulties, and this has been no exception to the rule. Mr. Earwaker had done little more than arrange the transcripts of the first 157 pages of this volume, having in a few instances added those footnotes which he alone was capable of making, and which, if he had been able to complete, would have made this collection of Wills so much more useful and interesting than they will be as now presented to the members. Wherever these notes existed they have been printed, and the fact of their authorship indicated by the addition of J. P. E. in brackets.

One of the main difficulties to be contended with has been that I have had to deal with copies and not with originals, and in some instances these transcripts have evidently been made by a copyist not skilled in mediæval Latin, with the result that occasionally it has been necessary to print an apparently unintelligible passage, and in some cases the transcriber has placed marks of contractions where they are not needed, or written down wrong cases and tenses. My first impulse was to correct these so far as possible, but on consulting with some of the other members of the Council, it was decided to print the transcripts exactly as they had come into our hands, as it would be impossible to decide which were errors of the mediæval and which of the Victorian scribe. For the accuracy of the transcripts of the Wills in the rest of the volume (p. 158 onwards) I can vouch, as here I had the advantage of the originals or contemporary copies.

Except when otherwise stated, all the Wills printed in the Appendix are from The Bishop's Enrollment Books, now at The Diocesan Registry, Chester.

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Lancashire and Cheshire Wills

NOT NOW TO BE FOUND IN ANY PROBATE COURT.

ERRATA.

Page 1, *line* 7, *for* testament *read* testamenť.
„ 1, „ 9, *for* sc̃orę *read* sc̃oꝫ.
„ 1, „ 10, *for* altar *read* altar̃.
„ 1, „ 17, *for* debit *read* debiť.
„ 1, „ 19, *for* eorę *read* eoꝫ.
„ 1, „ 25, *for* reddit *read* reddiť.
„ 2, „ 8, *for* altarẽ *read* altare.
„ 2, *note* 1, *line* 2, *for* Dr. Jessop *read* Dr. Jessopp.

Angł qandno łre mee quas łeo de eorę ...
ostendi et aĩa mea missis et oraco̅ibꝫ co̅mendari qd̄ vt qꝫ frẽs minores et p̄dicatores hẽnt 20s ad eorę pitanciã lego et volo etiã qd̄ honesta p̄ticipãco fiat p̄ me die sepulture mee aut de lardario meo aut aliunde lego etiã Milicent vxi mee oẽs terr̃ de Macclisfeud cũ le Bothefeld ad toť viť suã vna cũ Reddit ass̃ de Macclisf ita qd̄ de heredit̃ sua p̄pia faceat libitũ

[1] For a particulars of the family of Macclesfield, of which this Thomas is the earliest recorded member, see *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 165, and also *p.* 478.

[2] Now called Maelor Sarsneck or English Maelor [J. P. E.].

Lancashire and Cheshire Wills

NOT NOW TO BE FOUND IN ANY PROBATE COURT.

The Will of Thomas de Macclesfield, dated 1301. Proved 1303.

In noĩe pr̃is et filij et spirit̃ sc̃i amen Die Jouis in vigł b̃ti Thom̃ ap̃li A° [M] t̃centesimo p'mo [20th December 1301][1] Ego Thom̃ de Macclisfeud Condo testament meũ in hunc modũ. In p'mis lego aĩam meã Deo et beat̃ Marie v̊gini et õib^s sc̃is. Et corpus meũ ad sepiliend̃ in eccl̃ia oim̃ sc̃or̥ de Macclisfeud corã Altar b̃te v̊ginis ex p̥te vbi Ric̃ fił meus iacet. Et cor̥ corp̥e meo meliore equũ meũ nõie p'cipalis. Lego op̥i eccl̃e de Macclisfeud vnũ aůiũ Jumorẽ bonũ et op̥i eccl̃e de Lichefeld ij^s. Itm̃ lego fr̃ib^s minorib^s Cestr̃ 40^s et fr̃ib^s p̊dicatorib^s ibd̃m 40^s. Et fr̃ibs minorib^s de Sallopia 40^s. Et fr̃ibs p̊dicatorib^s ibid̃ 40^s. Et fr̃ib^s de Monte Carmel̃ Cestr̃ d̃j m̃c̃. Itm̃ lego fr̃ Ric. Andreu 20^s. Et fr̃ Rob̃to filio meo 40^s. Ista lagata fr̃ib^s bene possuit levari de bonis et debit meis apud Overton et Meleor sey scneyk[2] et amplius lego et volo qd̃ in cap̃lo gen̊ali Angł q^ndo łre mee quas h̃eo de eor̥ fraternitat̃ Debent ostendi et aĩa mea missis et orac̃oib3 com̃endari qd̃ vt q3 fr̃ẽs minores et p̊dicatores h̃ent 20^s ad eor̥ pitanciã lego et volo etiã qd̃ honesta p̥ticipãco fiat p̥ me die sepulture mee aut de lardario meo aut aliunde lego etiã Milicent v̊xi mee oẽs terr̃ de Macclisfeud cũ le Bothefeld ad tot̃ vit̃ suã vna cũ Reddit ass̃ de Macclisf̃ ita qd̃ de heredit̃ sua p̥p^la faceat libitũ

---

[1] For a particulars of the family of Macclesfield, of which this Thomas is the earliest recorded member, see *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 165, and also *p.* 478.

[2] Now called Maelor Sarsneck or English Maelor [J. P. E.].

suũ volo etiã qđ ipa hẽat terr̃ de halleleg̃ et de ambabs hurdesfeld dum continent̃ et sine viro vixerit et qđ nichil interim clamar̃ possit de alijs terr̃ et tent̃ nc in Wallia nc alibi lego etiã eiđ Milicent̃ oĩa vtensilia mea domus et alia iocalia mea saluis Rog̃ filio meo duabs ollis eueis vna pelve cũ lavatoria duabs mappis cũ Maunt̃gijs et vna macera cũ pede. Et qđ dĉa Milicent inveniat vn̄ vestiment̃ ad altarẽ beate Marie valde ydoneũ cuius casula[1] et parure cũ stola erunt de auro contextꝰ in quo Cappellans ibiđ celebrans possit honestius beate virgiñ deservire et corpus xpi conficere quot die sabbati lego etiã eiđ Miliscent vxi mee 16 boues de meliorib 20 vaccas de meliorib et 100 bidentes masĉlos vel femellos p libitu suo eligendos et duos affros lego etiã Isabelle filie mee 2qli vna cũ blado in terr̃ seminat̃ apud Gouzeworthe. Ita qđ hẽat ibiđ semen et forigiũ p terr̃ suã p seminand̃ t̃pe quadragesimat lego etiã eiđ pullauũ meũ reveñ[2] qui est apud Overton lego etiã Milicent de Davenport 6 boues 6 vacĉ et 6 aũia iuniora 20 bidentes 10 porĉ et 2 Jumenca cũ secta quarę 1 est in foresta et alia in pco lego etiã Jordano filio meo 10 boues qui sunt apud Mottram cũ blado et foragio ibiđ existentib set qđ bidentes de Stanleg̃[3] possint sustentari de feno ibiđ existent̃ hoc hyeme lego etiã eiđ Jurdano 1 pullauũ bay qui est in pco lego etiã trib pueris Cecillie filie mee 6 vaccas et 12 Juuencule vna cũ 6 marcis quas eisđ debeo, et alijs catallis suis que p'us hẽrunt lego magistro Joñe frĩ meo pullauũ meum bay qui est apud Overton et aliũ equũ ferrat qui est ibiđ lego etiã seruiĉ be Marie vnũ aũiũ ydoneũ. Itm̃

[1] *Query* for capsula, a case or covering into which anything is put [J. P. E.]. I am, however, indebted to Dr. Jessop for the following explanation of this passage, he writes: "The *Casula* is undoubtedly the Chasuble, the word is frequently used in that sense; *parure* is the ordinary French word for a robe, and is now and then used in the form *parura*, for any dress in Mediæval Latin, in this instance it must, I think, mean the Dalmatic, which got to be a very splendid garment in the 13th and 14th centuries. When the bishop or priest lifted his hands for ministrations at the altar or in blessing the people, he of course raised the sides of the sleeveless chasuble, and so exposed to view the Dalmatic that was under it. These dalmatics were often very splendid.

Millicent was to provide a suit of vestments, the stole, dalmatic, and chasuble being all of cloth of gold" [W. F. I.].

[2] *Query* roueñ = roan.

[3] *Query* Stauleg̃ [J. P. E.]. The Macclesfields owned the township of Stavelegh, or Stayley as it is now written, at this time.

recluse de Macclisfeud 40d. Itm dño Ad decano de Macclisf. 1 vacc. Itm cuit capplo pochiali istius Decanatus 6d. Itm cuit de pueris Robti de Staueleg[1] 1 averiu ydoneu. Itm Thom de hegham 20s. Willo de Rauenok 2 boues et 2 vacc et 2 alia iuniora et Robam de russet. Itm Rico fri meo 1 boue et 1 vacc et 1 aliã iuniorem et vnã de rob meis s. suptunicã de virid cũ tunica ptinent. Itm Ad fri meo 1 boue 1 vacc et vñ averiã iuniore cũ alijs catallis que het de me et Condono ei debitũ in qo mi teneł. Itm Thome de Tyderinton 4 vaccas 4 aueria iunior et robã meã novã. Itm Emme ancille mee 2s. Et si quid de bonis meis residuũ fuerit in distincte legatũ volo qd executores mei inde facient et ordinent scdm qd ad salute aïe mee melius viderint expedire, huius autem testamenti mei ordino et constituo executores meos subscriptos vilt magistrũ Johem frem meũ magistrũ Jordañ fil meũ Milicent uxem meã Adam Byran Rog fil meũ et Willm de Rauenok q'bs õibs et singulis do et Concedo plena libam potestatem administrandi in õibs bonis meis sicut ego psens essem in cuius rei testimoniũ psenti scripto sigill meũ apposui et sigill executore meore apponi pcuraui.

Die mcurij px pt festũ sci hillar Ao Dñi 1302[2] cora nobis Offic Dñi Archidi Cestr psens pbatũ extitit testamentũ et Concessa est administraco in forma Constituciois magistro J. de Vpton Magro Jordano fil dci defuncti Rogo fil eiusd Ad Byran et Willo de Rauenok executor in testamento noïatis Ita qd Milisand vx dci defuncti sit eisd supintend et iuxta eore conciliũ comune faciat ea que de bonis testatoris supadci.

Will of Richard Hul, dated 1349.[3]

In dei nomine Amen, Die Sabbathi pt fm Translacois Sci Thomæ Martyris [11th July] Ao Dñi 1349. Ego Ricus

---

[1] In 1 Edward I. [1272-3] Thomas de Macclesfeld as Lord of Stavelegh remitted to *Robert de Stavelegh*, in marriage with Dionysia his daughter, certain annual rent, which he was wont to pay for lands in Stavelegh.—*East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 165.

[2] 17th January 1302/3.

[3] *Baronagium Cestriæ*, *p.* 259d, *penes me* [J. P. E.].

Hul Condo Testamentū meū in hunc modum. Imprimis Lego Animã meã Deo et bt̃æ Mariæ et omnibus Sc̃is et Corpus meū ad sepeliendum in Cimiterio bt̃æ Mariæ sup̄ montem Cestriæ iuxta Castrū Cestr̃. Item Lego Margaretæ et Luciæ filiabus meis illã Domũ quã emi de Robto frẽ meo inquarera in Honebrug et unū selionem et Dimidiu selionem quos emi a Dño Symone de Monialibꝫ viz. Predcis Margaretæ et Luciæ et eor̃ hered de Corp̄ibus eorum procreat̃. Et si Decedant sine herede de eorum Corporibus legitime procreat̃ tunc lego predcam Domũ et Dc̃os Selionẽ et Dimidiũ cũ p̄tiñ Agneti ux̃ meæ et Assig̃ suis. Item lego Agneti uxor̃ meæ totū Teñtum in fforgatestreete ad totã vitã predcæ Agnetis Quod quid teñtum Yourd frater meus Legavit mihi et Dc̃æ Agneti ux̃ meæ ad totã vitam nr̃am et cuilibet nr̃um diutius vixerit. Item lego predict Teñtum post mortem nr̃am Joñi W° et Robto filijs nr̃is equaliter se dividend. Item lego totū redditū oiũm bonorū meorꝭ &c. [*sic*].

The Will of Hugh de Aldersey, dated 1354.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, I Hugh de Aldresey[2] on Sunday next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle [June 15] A.D. 1354, being in good memory make my testament in manner following. Imprimis I bequeath my soul to God, and my body to be buried in the church of St. Mary of Codyntun, and to the Rector of the church of Codyntun for licence for my body to be buried there 2s. I bequeath to Sir [*dño*] Thomas, parochial chaplain, 2s, and to Philip the clerk 12d. I bequeath to Hugh de Aytun le Crope fem' one place of meadow to me. . . . . .

The residue of my goods, my debts and legacies being paid, to my wife and my son, and to see this testament fulfilled and faithfully performed I make and constitute Hugh

---

[1] A translation from the original among the Aldersey Deeds [J. P. E.].

[2] For a pedigree of the Alderseys of Aldersey, see *Ormerod* (*Helsby*), Vol. ii., *p.* 739.

de Ledsam and my wife my executors. In testimony of which thing I have placed my seal. Given the day and place abovesaid.

[Seal gone.]

The Will of Jordan de Macclesfield, dated 1356.

In Dei noïe Amen Ego Jordan[s] de Macclesfeld[1] A° Dñi 1356 condo tesť in hunc modū Imp[ris] lego aïā meā deo &c. Itm̄ lego Dño Rico Pigott sextiū librū decretaliū.[2] Itm̄ lego Joñi fiť meo oēs alios libros meos et vñ Calicē et duo coclearia et vñ ciphū argenteū cum longo pede et cooptorio et vñ ciphū argenteū anglice Godet Ma[r]garete fiť mee. Itm̄ lego Milesencie fiť mee vñ ciphū argenť. Itm̄ lego Marione fiť mee vñ ciphū argēť. Et ad execuc̄oe istius tēsť ordio p̄dcū Johem meū executorē.

The Will of Randle Whytlof, dated 1361.[3]

Will of Randle Whytlof made the Thursday next after the feast of St. Edward the Bishop,[4] 1361.

His body to be buried in the church of Prestbury. He leaves to Margaret his wife all his lands &c in Macclesfield, and after her decease that place of land which he had by the gift and feoffment of John the son of Jordan de Macclesfield, lying between the land of John Hayneson on the one part,

---

[1] Jordan de Macclesfield was a younger son of Thomas de Macclesfield, whose will is printed on page 1. He succeeded to the property before 1312, on the death of his brother Roger. His *Inquisitio post mortem* was taken in 1356. He had three sons and three daughters, John, his second son, who is mentioned above, died in 1369 without issue, whereupon the property passed to Richard de Moreton, son of his sister Margaret, who had married John de Moreton. *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 478.

[2] The Book of the Decretals of Sextius.

[3] *Cotton MSS.* (Brit. Mus.), *Cleopatra, Dvj. f.* 114.

[4] In Sir Harris Nicholas' list of saints' days this feast does not appear.

and the land of John del Whyk on the other part, to Adam his son and his heirs under this condition, that if Adam marries Alicia le Flecher then the said place of land shall pass to William brother of the said Adam, and if Adam die without heirs, then the place to remain to the said William. And if William die without heirs then to Richard brother of the said William and his heirs, and in case of default, then to revert to the right heirs of the said Randle. And for the half of the burgage which he had of the feoffment of John de Sutton and others in Macclesfield, lying between the half of a burgage of Alexander le Mercer's of the one part and the common bakehouse [*furnum*] of the other part, And that curtilage in Macclesfield which lies between the curtilage which Reginald le Barker formerly held on the one part, and the land of John the son of Robert de Oclegh of the other part, And that place of his land with a certain Grainge in Macclesfield in "le dedestrete" which he had of the feoffment of Agnes le Sumnor, And a certain annual rent of 2^{d} arising from the heirs of Alice de Hagerstowe, to William his son and his heirs, with remainder as aforesaid. And that acre of land which is called Daleacre lying between the land of Richard del Rowe of the one part, and the way which leads to the mill of Tydrynton of the other part, and that little place of land which he had by demise of the Lord near "le Mothall" in Macclesfield which pays to the Lord 8^{d} per annum, And that half burgage with a little place of land adjacent which we had by the feoffment of John the son of Jordan de Macclesfield, lying between the land of William del Dounes of Shryglegh of the one part, and the King's high way of the other part, to Richard his son and his heirs, with remainder as before. And he leaves to William his son two marks of silver coming from Roger de Falymbrom. And he leaves to the Brothers of Werynton half a mark "unam duodenam ferri et duas duodenas pergameni." To the Blessed Mary of Prestbury half a mark. To the Blessed Mary of Macclesfield 2s. To the Blessed Katherine of Macclesfield 12d. And to the altar of the Holy Trinity there 12d. And to the new altar there 12d. To St. Peter of Prestbury 2s. To the Blessed Margaret of

Macclesfield 6d. And to the Blessed Mary Magdalen there 6d. To the Blessed Katherine of Prestbury 12d. And in lights for his body 6lbs. of wax of the price of 6s. And to the fraternity [*fr'nitati*] of St. Cedde 3d. To the Blessed Mary of Coventry 3d. To St. John of Chester 3d. And to distribute for his soul and all Christian souls 13s. 4d. And in oblations on the day of his burial 2s. And to the building of Wolmesbrug 12d. To Henry the clerk 3s. 4d. To Alice Wadylof his niece or handmaid [*ancille*] 3s. 4d. And for two Trental of Masses 5s. To the Carmelites of Chester 2s. To the Friars minor there 2s. To the Friars preachers there 2s. To the Friars preachers of the Castell 2s. To Alice his daughter 20s. To Anker de Stopport 4d. And to the chaplain to celebrate mass for half a year 2 marks and 10s.

The residue of his goods to his wife, and he constitutes William le Povere and Margaret his wife his executors.

The Will of Roger de Swetenham, dated 1366.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, I Roger de Swetenham[2] on Tuesday next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul [June 30] A.D. 1366, make my testament in this manner. Imprimis I leave my soul to God and the Blessed Mary, and my body to be buried where God shall provide, and for the name of my principal my best beast or 13s. 4d. Item I leave to the belltower [*Campanili*] of Astbury 13s. 4d. Item to the Brothers Minor of Chester, and the Brothers of Mount Carmel in Chester, and the Brothers of Werington, and the Brothers of Newcastle, each 30s. 3d. I leave to Alice my daughter, by the oversight of Thomas de Dauenport and John de Dauenport and her relations, 20 marks of silver. Item I leave all the residue of all my goods to Cecily my wife, and Thomas my son and Randle my son, according

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[1] *Swettenham Chartulary*, written *c.* 1636, *p.* 30 [J. P. E.].

[2] Of Somerford Booths. See pedigree, *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 646.

to their good carriage, by the oversight of the said Thomas and John and my kindred [*parentam meore*].

And to see this my testament faithfully executed, I ordain, make, and constitute Cecily my wife and Thomas my son my executors.

The Will of Matthew de Haydok, dated 1394.[1]

In the name of God Amen.

On the Monday next following the feast of the Holy Trinity [15th June] in the year of our Lord one thousand three hundred and ninety-four. I Mathew de Haydok,[2] being of sound memory though weak in body, do duly make my testament in this manner:

First I bequeath my soul to God, to the Blessed Mary and all his Saints and my body to be buried in the conventual church of the friars of the order of Carmelites of the convent at London.

Next I bequeath my best beast by way of principal on the day of my burial and all and several my other goods moveable and immoveable, wheresoever they be, to the sole direction and disposition of my beloved brother Gilbert de Haydok, lord of Haydok, and Edmund de Standish my cousin.

Moreover I make and appoint as executors of this my last will or testament my well-beloved in Christ Robert de Wodecroft and Thomas de Birkedale, my executors by the supervision of the aforesaid Gilbert and Edmund.

In witness whereof I attached my seal to these presents.

Given on the day and year of our Lord aforesaid.

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[1] A translation from the original among the Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 1. [J. P. E.].

[2] Matthew de Haydock was a brother of Gilbert de Haydock, Lord of Haydock, whose name occurs frequently in deeds about this time. *Vide* Gregson's Fragments (Harland's Edition) *pp.* 100, 104, 106, 108.

(At the bottom of the will is written in Latin)

My lord has approved [?] this present will but because the executors of the same are in London, my lord wishes that you in his stead should grant administration of goods to the executors when they come.

HALLUM.

To Master John Lynton
Registrar of the Court of Canterbury

The probate of the will is attached to it.

By the tenour of these presents we John Lynton commissary general of the reverend father in Christ and lord William, by the grace of God lord Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and legate of the Apostolic See.

The Will of Peter de Swettenham, dated 1408.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 14 Sept. 1408. I Peter de Swetenham[2] made my testament in this manner.

Imprimis I leave my soul to God Almighty, the Blessed Mary, and all the Saints, and my body to be buried in the territory [*territio*[3]] of Astbery. I leave my best beast [to go] before my body in the name of my principal [mortuary]. I leave to be burnt in wax about my body the day of my burial 5^{li}. I leave in offerings 12d. I leave to Roger de Swetenham my little son [*filiolo meo*] one acre and three roods of land which I had of the gift of Roger de Swetenham, my brother.

Item I leave all the residue of all my goods not bequeathed to Agnes my wife. And to see this testament

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[1] *Swettenham Chartulary, p.* 28 [J. P. E.].

[2] A brother of Roger de Swettenham whose will is printed *p.* 7. *Vide* Note 2 on that page.

[3] *Query* cimiterio [W. F. I.].

well and faithfully performed I constitute Agnes my wife and Roger Swetenham my executors.

17 Dec. 1408. This testament was proved before the Dean of Middlewich in the church of Astbery, and administration granted to the executors.

The Will of Roger Jodrell, Esq., dated 1423.[1]

In the name of God, Amen. I Roger Joudrell[2] Esquire being of sound mind but weak in body and seeing the danger of my decease do make my Will in this form. First I bequeath my soul to God the Blessed Mary and all his Saints and my body to be buried in the Chancel of the Church of Tackessale. Also I leave my best beast before my body in the name of a principal. Also I give to be expended about my body on the day of my burial so much as to my executors shall seem fit.

Also I leave to Nicholas del Sherd my servant 10 shillings of silver. Also I leave to the same Nicholas one green coat and another with a hood of the same cloth. Also to the same Nicholas one bay market horse marked with a horse shoe upon the hip in the land of Gower londes. Also I bequeath all the armour of my body to James my son. Also to Roger my son an helmet fastened with silver, also to John my son a skullcap inlaid with silver. Also I bequeath to William my son my silver collar. Also I bequeath to Nicholas my son one horse or a stag, the best next after the one chosen for the principal. Also to Ralph my son one other horse or stag in the same manner and form. Also I leave to

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[1] A translation from the original among the Jodrell papers [J. P. E.].

[2] Roger Jodrell, of Yeardsley in the County of Chester, Esquire. Eldest son of William Jodrell, by his wife Agnes, daughter of Robert de Bradshaw. Roger Jodrell served in Ireland under Richard the Second, and afterwards fought at Agincourt. He married twice, first, Alice, daughter of Robert de Thornton, a citizen of York, by whom he does not appear to have had any children, and on her death about 1400 Joan, probably daughter of Benedict de Assheton of Whalley, who survived him. *Vide East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 538.

Joan my wife all my jewells. Also I leave to a priest to celebrate mass for the salvation of my soul a reasonable salary for a year or a half a year as to my executors shall best seem expedient.

Also I bequeath to Anne my daughter a book called "Sidrac." Also I bequeath to Alice my daughter a book called "Porthouse." Also to Margaret my daughter a Psalter. Also I bequeath all the residue of my goods (my body being buried debts paid) equally to be divided between Joan my wife and all my children except George[1] my son and my married daughters by the disposition of my executors. Also I leave to Oliver my son one "fisshe bote" in the land of Gower. Also I leave to the church of Tacckessale one garment of worsted to make a vestment. Also to Roger my son one doublet of green damask. Also I leave to Joan my wife a gown furred with white. Also I leave to Nicholas del Sherd one doublet of black velvet.

And that this my will may be well and faithfully executed I make ordain and appoint William my son and the aforesaid Nicholas del Sherd my executors.

Dated at Irdesley on Monday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel in the year of our Lord 1423 [Oct 4, 1423].

This will was entered and lawfully proved before the Dean of Macclesfield in the Chapel of the same on the ninth day of the month of November the year within written, And administration of all the goods of the within named deceased was granted to the Executors named in the testament in the form as of right. In witness whereof to these presents I have put my Seal of Office.

Dated day and year above written.

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[1] George was his eldest son, and married, in or before 1417, Matilda, daughter of John Sutton, of Sutton, Co. Chester.

The Will of Sir Geoffrey Masey, Knt., dated 1456.[1]

In the name of the blesset trinite Amen The first day of Marche In the yere of our lord Iħu crist a thousand faur hundredth & LVI. I Geffrey Mascy[2] Knyght beyng holl in body & myghty of mynde make my testament in this maṅ. In the firste I bewethe my saule to all myghty god and to oure ladye saynt Mary & to al the halowes of heven & my body to be buryet in a newe chapelle wheche I have made in the south side of the chauncell of the pẽssh chirche of oure lady saynt Mary at Eccles Also I bewhethe my best beest in the name of my p'ncipall: Also I bewhethe xij white gounes to xij por men to bere xij torches bifor & aboute my body the day of my burynes; also I bewhethe XLs. to distribute ymong por peple the day of my burynes or hastely aft by the avyse of myne executor[s]. Also I bewhethe to the erectõn fundacõn ordeñnce & makyng of the chauntre of a p'ist to sing for eṽ in the said newe chapell XL[li] & that to be ordeignet & made accordyng to a will by me afõr this tyme so made by endẽtur under the seall of myne armes of Tatton except ȳ[r] shall be first in the said fundacõn namet such p'son or p'sons assemes to Rauf Longley p'son of Prestwiche Margy my wyfe John my son & to myne executor[s] & then to Geffrey Mascy son of Wiłłm Mascy as ỹin is reħcet & specifiet & this to be done by gode avyse of consull of lawe And I also wille y[t] yai amortise all landes ordeignet to the said chũnt[r] & do ỹin by the avyse of the said consull accordyng to my said entent & as true faith and co'science will in all thyngs Also I bewhethe xx marks to bye an averlay of marbul to lye in the said chappell aṽr my body w[t] II ymages y'opon of copur & aṽrgilde oon aft me añoy of my said wyfe

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[1] From the *Langton MSS.* [J. P. E.].

[2] According to Sir Peter Leycester (*p.* 371), Sir Geoffrey was the second son of Sir John Massey, of Tatton, who probably fell in the battle of Shrewsbury. Sir Geoffrey married Margery, the daughter of John Hulton, of Farnworth in Lancashire, and, according to both Sir Peter and Dr. Ormerod, had no lawful issue, but left most of his property to his bastard son John Massey, who founded the family of Massey of Denfield and Audlem.

& a reson aboute the stone what day & yere I decesset w^{t} IIII skochens y'upon by the avyse of my said executor^{s} And if the said fundac̃on & av̄rlay will coste mor yen I have bewhethen thai to take a resonable q̃ntite more if hit will serve And if yai coste lasse my said executor^{s} to dispose that Also I bewhethe to the Abbot of Whalley for my tithes & oblac̃ons averhippet or foryeton in full remission y'of xxs. Also I bewhethe to ychon of the IIII orders of freres to syng ychon a trentall of masses & to pȳe for me xiiis. iiiid. Also I bewhethe to my sr̄vnts y^{t} yai praie for me & to be gode & true to me my said Wyfe & to my worship—first to the said John my son xx marke To Marget his wyfe xls. To Honkyn Hulton x marke To John Hulton xls. To Jankyn Hulton xl^{s}. To Geffrey Hulton xl^{s}. To George Hulton ii marke To James Mascy xx^{s}. To Heñr Valentyne vjs. viijd. To Wiłłm Dodeson vjs. viijd. To P'kyn Hyne vjs. viijd. To John Par xiijs. ivd. To James Worsley xiijs. ivd. To Rauf Worsley xiijs. ivd. To Laurence Gelibronde vjs. viijd. To Laurence Skot vjs. viijd. To Sr Rog̃ Bentley vjs. viijd. To Denys Holand vjs. viijd. To Heñr Galey vjs. viijd. To Peres Grenehalgh xld. To Rīc Guldene xld. To Thomas Dodeson xld. To Rauf Henr'son xld. To Rõbt Worsley iis. To Edward Bury iis. To Rīc Morys iis. To Jhonet Norres vis. viijd. To Jhonet Mader xld. To Marg'y Tyldesley a cowe. Also wher I am enformed y^{t} certein untrue & fals peple bycause yai supposet I was gretely diseaset w^{t} sekenes sklanddert & noyset in the cuñtr y^{t} I shuld ogh yaī certein dettes & fees yat is to wete John Valentyne Alis hys wyfe Nicolas Hulton y^{t} has weddet a strm̃pt & a bastard dõght of my brother Wiłłm, Fondull [?] Bromeley and Raynald Legh : yai bene all ỹin fals & untrue I ogh yaī noght as I will onswar afor god & y'for I chg̃e myne executor^{s} to paie yaī noght And I thonke al myghty god I ogh nor am in dette to any other p'son Forthermor if Wiłłm Mascy his heirs or any other p'son or p'sons by yeir excitac̃on p'curīg abettement consaill maky^{g} or assent do or p'cur any bodely harme to be done to me the said Geffrey Mascy my wyfe John my son or to my sr̄vnts or to suche p'sons y^{t} have late been w^{t} me & the said Marg'y & John in our mãts or if the said Willm his heirs or any other p'son or p'sons by yair

pr'curs makyng consaill excitacõn abettement or assent enter or make maistres or wronges in my mañs of Worsley or Tatton wt the appr̃tence agenys the Will of me the said Geffrey or Marg'y duryng my lyfe & duryng the time the said Marg'y after my decesse happens to dwelle & abyde in the said mañs: or if the said Wiłm his heirs or any other suche said p'son or p'sons by his excitacõn consaill abettement makys p'curyng or assent distresse ravysshe or take away the said Marg'y or disseise or pytt oute the said Marg'y or feffes to hir use or the said John or feffes to his use of any landes by me or my feffes to yaĩ gyven: or if the said Wiłłm or suche said p'sons take wrongfully any godes or catells whechez longet or p'teignet to me the said Geffrey Then I bewhethe & gif to Thomas lord Stanley all the glasen wyndowes clokke belles fournesses & ledes in my mañs of Worsley & Tatton & all dorres wyndowes lovers yates bedde trees brigge & planke & the skrenes & side bordes stondyng or beyng in the said mañs wt the appr̃tence and if the said Wiłłm & suche said p'sons fulfille & trespasse not in forme as is bifor rehced then the said Margy & my said executors to dispose & have these thyngs afor to the said Thomas bewhethen & yaĩ by yair discrecon to dispose Furthermor I bewhethe to the said Thomas xxti marke besechyng hym as I most trist his gode lordship to be gode lorde & to se to my said wyfe yt she may be at hir liberte to demene hirself & not co'straynet ageyns hir wyll disseiset spoilet nor robbet of hir lands nor godes ne in lyke wyse the said John nor my said executors Also I bewhethe to Thomas Assheton Knyght xli he truly as I trist hym to helpe my said wyfe and John my son & to avr se yt my said will be p'formed & fulfilled Also I wyll & chge myne executors yt Wiłłm Mascy have by yair assent & wyll all those godes yt longet to me opon lesse ỹt he rule & demene hym truly in all thynge anedes me my said wyfe John my son myne executors & srvnts accordyng to myne entent as is bifor rehcet & ỹt my said wyfe & executors if yai lyke to leve & gif hym by yair discrecõn suche thyngs as yai semes to hym necessaries Forthermor I wyll yt a cedule wheche shall be encloset win this my writyng under my seall all things ỹin writen & conteignet be my full wyll & pt of my said testament and the residue of all my godes my dettes whitte my

body buryet & all my bewhestes paiet & obs̃rvet I bewhethe to the said Marg̃y my wyfe she to dispose yaï to my saule heel aft myne enformac̃on & entent to hir by me declaret as she will onswar afor god And to this my full will & testament to be fulfilled & execute I ordeigne & make suche ii p'sons as the said Marg'y & John my son after my decesse wyll lymyte & ordeigne to be my executors And if yai noon lymyte then I ordeigne & wyll the said John my son & Honkyn Hulton to be my said executors In to wyttenes whereof to this my full Will & Testament endented I the said Geffrey have sette the seall of myne armes Gyven the day & yere aforesaid.

[*The Schedule.*]

Also I bewhethe to the makyng of Salford lone xxs. Also I wyll & by thes p'sents I gif to John my son his heires & assignes all the dedes mynyments records & evidences wheche p'teignen or longen to the landes or teñts or any p'cell of yaï gifen by me or my feffes to the said John & certein feffes to his use wher̃mever & in whos handes the said dedes mynyments records & evidence happen to come or be. Also I gif to the said John & his heirs the armes of Aldelem & Wrenebury To have all the said dedes mynymēts recordes & evidence & armes to the said John & his heirs & assignes for ever: Also I wyll y^t^ the w̃in writen Rōg Bentley p'ist aft the decesse of John Gartside p'ist have & rejoise to t̃rme of his lyve the c̃huntre that I have ordeignet at Eccles Kirke w^t^ all the lands & teñts y'to longyng yf so be y^t^ myne executores thynke y^t^ he be able to s̃rve hit.

[Seal, on a heater-shaped shield quarterly, a label of four points, within the legend *Sigillum Galfridi Mascy Tatton.*[1]]

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[1] In Helsby's Edition of *Ormerod*, Vol. i., *p.* 442, is what purports to be an engraving of this seal, but it is quarterly, in the first quarter a lion passant, in the second quarter a label of two points, and the legend *Sigillum Galfridi Mascie de Tatton.* In *Sir Peter Leycester*, *p.* 369, is a woodcut of the arms of Tatton, quarterly, a label of five points,

The Will of Ralph Staveley, dated 1456.[1]

"In dei noĩe amen anno dñi Mill̃o CCCC° quinquagesimo vj° vicesimo nono die mensis Septemb̃. Ego Radulphus Stalay[2] compos mentis & bone memorie condo testamentū meū in hunc qui sequit̃ modū In p'mis lego Deo op̃i beate marie & om̃ib3 sc̃is animā meam corpus q3 meū sepellient̃ in ecc̃lia vt̃ cimitorio sc̃i Martini leycest̃ Item lego meū optimū equū noĩe p̃ncipalis vt̃ mortuarij Itm volo q̃ filia mea sit nupta filio Joh̃is ashton heredi Thome ashton Milit̃ ꝑ Centū libris & volo vt ille Centū libre disponāt ꝑ aĩa mea ꝑut meli[s] viderint ex̃es mei Itm lego vicario sc̃i Martini vnū equū ambulatorẽ Itm volo q̃ om̃ia debita mea fideliť soluant̃ Itm volo q̃ vxor mea hẽat dotem suā & meli[s] de tenement[s] & bonis meis Itm lego meā crucē aureā cū reliq̃is s' quā nūc porto circa collū meū ecc̃lie ꝑoch̃ de Motterhm Itm lego edmundo vernon iij[s] iiij[d] Itm lego Radulpho Staveley quadraginta solid̃ & duas vaccas Itm lego Joh̃i Staveley quadraginta solid̃ & duas vaccas Itm lego Benedicco seruienti meo custodi eq°rꝯ meorꝯ viginti solid̃ & vnā vaccā Itm lego cuilibet ꝯuienciū meorꝯ xiij[s] iiij[d] Ceꝯa vero bonorꝯ meorꝯ nō legatorꝯ do & lego executorib3 meis quos ordinos Dũm Thomam Asshton & Thomā Damport vt iꝑi disponāt ꝑ me ꝑut viderint meli[s] ꝑ salute anime mee et vt vellent me ꝑ eis disponere si essent in tali casu Et vt disponant oẽm voluntatē meā in alio testamento meo p'antea condito et in domo mea antea recondito Dat̃ leycest̃ anno & die sup[a] dicc[s] Signat[3] sigillo meo in veritat̃ testimoniū."

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[1] From the *Dodsworth MSS.* 1890 [J. P. E].

[2] Ralph Staveley, of Staveley, Esq., son of Thomas de Staveley who died about 1440. Ralph Staveley left an only daughter, Elizabeth, who fulfilled the desire to which the testator gives utterance above and married Thomas Ashton (afterwards knighted), son of John de Ashton and nephew and heir of Sir Thomas de Ashton. *Vide East Cheshire,* Vol. ii., *p.* 167.

[3] Seal gone. Attached to this will are the two letters of administration under the seals of the Archbishops of York and Canterbury respectively; these seals are much broken. Proved at York 29 April, 1457, and at Lambeth 23 May, 1457.

The Will of John Huntingdon, Warden of Manchester, dated 1458.[1]

In dei Nomine Amen. Septimo die mensis Novembris Anno domini Millesimo CCCC^{mo} lviij^{o} Ego Johannes Huntyngton clericus Magister sive Custos Collegii [beatæ Mariæ] de Mancestria gravi ægritudine corporis vexatus mente tamen et corde in deo per veram spem et amorem totaliter convexus primo peto peccatorum meorum veniam ut sit anima mea (Christi imago) per lacrimarum penitencias detersa ab omni inquinamento [carn]is et spiritus sui creatoris oculis sit habilis representanda. Et utinam habilis et suo creatori acceptabilis sit hæc anima mea quam nunc in principio testamenti mei divinis manibus hoc est dei misericordiæ et pietati suæque matris [*sic*] Reginæ virginum beatæ Mariæ peccatorum omnium propiciatrici et benignissimæ pro peccatoribus interventrici Necnon sanctorum patronorum meorum angelorum et archangelorum manibus et protectione [*sic*] offero devoto corde et ore commendo. Corpusque meum statuo sepeliri in ipso gradu summi altaris in quo cotidianus [for quotidianus] sacerdos missam incipit per generalem confessionem. Item lego cuilibet consociorum meorum in die sepulturæ meæ exequiis interessenti vj^{s} viij^{d} et cuilibet iiij^{or} clericorum iij^{s} iiij^{d} Item cuilibet choristarum xij^{d}, clericis parochialibus inter se iij^{s} iiij^{d} et Johanni Belman xij^{d}. Item lego Willielmo Rutter Johannæ uxori ejus Richardo Rutter Thomæ Rutter Willielmo Rutter et Alicæ Rutter filiis prædictorum Willielmi et Johannæ Rutter ac etiam Ceciliæ sorori uxoris prædicti Willielmi cum eisdem commoranti quatuor vaccas quatuor vitulos duas juvencas cum tribus *stirkez* inter eosdem dividendos. Item lego Johannæ uxori prædicti Willielmi Rutter unam crateram argenteam *pouncet* cum uno coopertorio *pouncet* ex opere alio scilicet rosarum, ut habeat memoriam mei et oret pro anima mea omnibus diebus vitæ suæ.

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[1] A translation of this will, with some notes on the life of Warden Huntingdon, is to be found in the "Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society" for 1885.

Item do et lego Elisabethæ Barret unum burgagium jacens in Chesterfeld quod emi a Richardo Barret patre dicti Elisabethæ cum juribus et pertinenciis suis quibuscunque. Item do et lego omnia burgagia terras et tenementa mea infra Mancestriam et Salfordiam adjacentia Jacobo Brid et Nicholao Ravald capellanis hæredibus et assignatis suis imperpetuum prout patet in certis cartis illis inde plenitus confectis. Item do et lego prædictis Jacobo et Nicholao hæredibus et assignatis suis totum jus et clameum quod habeo ex dono et feoffamento Reginaldi West, domini la Warre in Overaldport et Netheraldport ad terminos certos mihi heredibus et assignatis meis a prædicto domino la Warre concessis prout patet in certis cartis mihi inde plenitus confectis. Item cetera omnia bona mea mobilia et immobilia non superius disposita vel legata do et lego prædictis Jacobis et Nicholao capellanis Quos ordino et constituo meos hæredes et fideles executores ut ipsi deum præ oculis habentes ordinent et disponant pro salute animæ meæ prout volunt respondere coram summo judice. Et insuper ne forte gens indomita contra me solita debagans [*sic* for debacchans] feritate quæ mea sunt vel mihi debentur rapiendo istam meam ultimam voluntatem ut virtualem disposicionem minime sortiatur finaliter impediat. Ideo me ipsum ac executorum meorum insufficienciam sub ipsius tuicionis vexillo cujus bonitas immensa ac suffragium singulare mihi absque meis meritis semper actinus [*sic* for hactenus] perimpenditur totaliter immitto, Reverendissimum in Christo patrem et dominum et dominum meum singularissimum Willielmum permissione divina Eboracensem Archiepiscopum humiliter implorando quatinus consueta sua pietas pro [nunc ?] finaliter dilatata sui tentorii fimbria mihi funiculos suos faciens longiores ex sua largiflua bonitate[1] testamenti mei supervisor et executorum meorum protector existere dig-

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[1] The testator is plainly alluding to and slightly paraphrasing Isaiah liv. 2, "Dilata locum tentorii tui et pelles tabernaculorum tuorum extende, ne parcas; longos fac funiculos tuos et clavos tuos consolida," or, as the English version has it, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." For this and other suggestions I am much indebted to C. S. Perceval, Esq., F.S.A. [J. P. E.]

netur graciosus ut cunctis mortalibus merito preconizari poterit qualiter invincibilis illa caritas qua me dilexit clemencia pastoralis in vita, etiam in morte non aufertur set [*for* sed] munifica largicione dilatatur copiose. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti testamento sigillum meum apposui.[1] Datum die et anno supradictis.

Endorsed on the back of the will :

Istud testamentum fuit legitime probatum coram nobis decano Mamcestriæ et administracio omnium bonorum et catallorum terrarum et tenementum mobilium et immobilium infrascriptorum Johannis defuncti concessa est executoribus infrascriptis in forma juris. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum officii[2] nostri presentibus est appositum. Dat' vicesimo secundo die mensis Novembris anno infrascripto.

Also endorsed in a different hand :

Testamentum Johannis Huntyngton clerici magistri sive custodis ecclesiæ Collegii beatæ Mariæ de Mancestria.

Will of Ralph Brayen, of Spurstow, dated 1475.[3]

In the name of God, Amen, the 7 Sept. 1475. I Ralph Brayen constitute my testament in this manner. Inprimis I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried within the cemetery of the Collegiate Church of St. Bonifice of Bonbor [Bunbury], and I give my best beast for my principal. Item I bequeath to the work of the church aforesaid, 6s. 8d. Item I bequeath to the work of the Collegiate Church of St. John, Chester, one great oak. Item I give and bequeath all my lands and tenements to Katherine my wife during her life, and after the decease

[1] This seal is now missing.

[2] Most unfortunately this seal, which has been affixed on the surface of the parchment, is now quite gone. No perfect example of the seal of the Rural Deans of Manchester is known. I have a worn impression, but the lettering is very indistinct. [J. P. E.]

[3] From the Aldersey Deeds [J. P. E.].

of the aforesaid Katherine I will that they shall remain to Henry Aldursley and his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. Item be it known to all that Morgan Masse owes me four marks and 3s. 4d. Item Thomas Aldfort 26s. 8d. Item John Betteley 5s. Item James Dod 5s. 4d., John Bostoke of Chester 3s. 4d. Item be it known to all that I the aforesaid Ralph owe the wife of Thomas Crewe 3s. 4d., and to see this my testament well and faithfully performed I constitute and ordain my faithful executors, Katherine my wife and my heir Henry Aldursley.

In testimony of which thing I have placed my seal, these being witnesses William Bulkeley, Henry Aldursley, John Halghton and others. Given at my house at Spursto the day and year abovesaid.

[Small seal of red wax not heraldic.]

Endorsed on the back [in Latin]—

Proved before the Dean of the Deanery of Wich Malbank the 17th September in the year within written, and administration granted to the executors.

Will of Isabella Mapleton, Widow, dated 1483.[1]

5 May 1483.

In the name of God, Amen. I Isabella lately wife of John Mapulton. To be buried in the Collegiate Church of Manchester. I give to the said Church my best cow for my principal. I give to Agnes my daughter my right in a house near a bridge called the Irk, for the term of her life. Remainder to William Ravald upon certain conditions, which unfulfilled remainder to the service of the Blessed Virgin of Manchester.

Agnes my daughter executrix.

Witnesses—John Bamford chaplain [?],
William Bamford and others.

Proved 12 June 1483.

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[1] Abstract from the Chetham Deeds [J. P. E.].

The Will of Richard Leigh, of High Leigh, Esq., dated 1484.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, 12 August 1484. I Richard Legh Esq. I bequeath my soul to Christ Almighty and the blessed Mary his mother and all the saints. My body to be buried in the chapel of the blessed Mary of Raustorne.

Item I bequeath to my daughters, viz., Joan, Emma, and Isabella, forty pounds.

The rest of my goods to my son and heir Thomas Legh, senior, and I appoint him executor.

List of Debts, &c.

Witnesses, Geoffrey Starkey of Stretton, Thomas Legh of Northwood, Sir (*dñs*) Richard Karynton, chaplain of the parish of Raustorne, and Sir (*dñs*) John Assheby and others.

Will of Richard Leigh, of High Leigh, dated 1485.[2]

In the name of God, Amen, I Richard Legh of Hee Legh.

To be buried in the church of Rostorn in the chapel of St. James on the south side of the said church.

I leave to my daughters £40.

Thomas my son and heir to have the residue of my goods.

List of debts owed by testator and owed to him.

Given at Legh 10 January 1484[-5].

These being witnesses, Geoffrey Starkey of Stretton, Esq.,

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[1] A translation from the original among the High Leigh Deeds, West Hall.

[2] A later will of the same Richard Leigh (*vide* preceding will). A translation from the very illegible Latin original, now among the West Hall papers. [J. P. E.]

Thomas Legh of Northwood, Sir (*dñs*) Nicholas Devyas rector of the church of Lyme, Richard Carington curate of the church of Rostorne, and others.

Probate [?] endorsed on the back—not now legible.

Will of Thomas Leigh, of High Leigh, Esq., dated 1485.[1]

"In dei noïe Amen ego Thomas Legh de Hegh Legh armig̃ cõdo testamētū meū indentatū in huius modū in primis lego aïam meã deo ōipotïeti corpusq3 meū ad sepeliēdū ubi deo placuit.

"All so yt ys my wyll y^t my feoffs to my vse schall make to my iiij sons ichon of thaym an astate of londs & teñts ye qwych y^t thay be seasyt of to to [*sic*] my vse to ye valure of xiij^s iiij^d by zer to haue & to hold to thaym for ꝑme of thayr lyves vnđ this cõdicion tyll thay be ꝑmotyt eꝝy of thaym to xl^s or above for ꝑme of thayr lyves & then at qwat tyme y^t any of thaym be so ꝑmotyt to ye sũme afor sayd ye astate made be my feoffs to thaym so ꝑmotyt be voyd.

"All so yt ys my wylle y^t my sayd feoffs schall make astate to John my brođ of londs & teñts to ye zerle valure of xxj^s viij^d for ꝑme of hys lyffe. Allso yt ys my wylle y^t my sayd feoffs haue ye warde & mariage of my son & heyr Ric̃ & thay to devide ye mariage money to ye mariage of Alys my doghtur & my cosyn Elizabeth Glegge & yf yt happyn ođ of thaym to dye the tođ to heue ye qwalle & yf hyt happyn y^t thay bothe desesse vnmaret y^t then my sayd feoffs schall dispose ye sayd money as thay thynke best. All so yt ys my wylle y^t my sayd feoffs haue y^e ꝑfetts of all my londs & teñts vnto ye tyme my sayd son cū to ye age of xviii zerys to pay my detts & for to helpe my schyld

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[1] From the High Leigh Deeds, West Hall. Query whether ever proved? [J. P. E.]

& to dispose for my soule as thay thynk best as thay wyll vnsware a fore god at ye day of ye grete jugement.

"All so yt ys my wylle y^t my brod John oon of my feoffs haue All ye rule of my tents & ꝯuāds vnto ye tyme y^t my sayd son cū to ye age of xviij zer^s. All so I make be ỹs my last wylle Thom^as Leycestr̃ son of John Leycestr̃ Thom^as Hawardyne son of Thom^as of Hawardyne John off Helegh John Mere Ryc̃ Moldeworth Wyll^am Leycestr̃ John Legh brod of ye sayd Thom^as Legh John Leycestr̃ son of ye sayd Thom^as Leycestr̃ to be myne executors to haue ye disposicion of all my go[o]ds moveabull. Allso yt ys my wylle y^t Sr Geffray Mascy knght Perus Werburton John ye son of ye sayd Perus John Leycestr̃ of Nether Tabley esquiers to be supvisors ot ỹs my last wylle as eū I did thaym s'vice or may do to se y^t ỹs be execute & pformyt As fer as thayr power ys as thay wyll vnsware to me at ye day of jugement.

"In wytenes hereof I ye sayd Thom^as to ỹs my last wylle endētyt haue set to my seale These wytnes Hānet Mascy of Ryxton Wyll^am Mere John Boydell.

"Wrytten at Legh in ye fest of saynt oswald knyg In ye zer of owr lord Ihu cryst Mcccclxxxv."

Will of John Hulton, of Farnworth, Esq., dated 1486.[1]

"In dei noīe Amen quīto die mens̄ Nouembris Anno dñi Millio CCCC° octogesimo vj^to [1486] Ego Jones Hulton de ffarneworth Armig̃ compos ment^s & sane memorie Condo testamentū ac volūtatē meā vltimā dispono in hūc modū. In p'mis lego aīam meā ōipotēti dō beate marie mat̃ ei^s & ōib; sc̄is corp^sq; meū ad sepiliend in Eccl̄ia poch de Deyne. Itm lego optimū meū Aud̃iū nōie mortuar̃ ad p'sentād Aīam meā corā altissio iudice. Itm lego & do viginti Marc̄ ad edificand

[1] From the original in possession of W. B. Hulton, Esquire, 1887. John Hulton died November, 1487. [J. P. E.]

vnã Capellã ex ꝑte & laꝑe boriał dicte ecclie de Deyne. Itm do & lego duodeč Marč adinvẽiend honestũ p'sbiꝑũ ac discretũ celebrare diꝑe ac deuote celebrare orare duobꝫ ãnis ꝑ aĩa mea ac ꝑentũ meorꝰ. Itm lego x mřc ad ꝓuiciũ beate marie sustendãd in dča ecclia q̃tis deuots capellans ꝑpetualiť ĩveniať celebratur ꝑ bñfactoribꝫ & sustentatoř dicť ꝓuič. Itm lego Johi Chaydocke filiolo meo vnã vaccã & vitulũ ad augmentand & crestend ad ꝑficiũ suũ. Itm lego dño Jacobo Smetheley cognato meo xls. Itm lego cuilibet famulorꝰ ac famularꝰ m̃ in domo & ꝓuico ꝓuienť ac veste mea noĩe liberať vtenť alias sũ alio mo nõ ꝑmoť cũ aliqo releuamie tẽꝑe decessus mei vjs viijd in moneť Et in aliis bonis ad valorẽ. Allso my will is yt my wyfe Johan shall haue the thrid ꝑte of al my londez ye qwhich thrid ꝑte berez ye sum̃e of xxxiij Mřc ijs viijd lying in Rũworth Heyton Lostocke Snythill in Halghton and Okynbothũ in Breghtmeyt if she wyl be agreabull ỷto. Allso my will is yt xxli of my lyvelode lying in Machestr Denton Gorton Okynshawe [*sic* for Openshawe] & Yrlame wt the free rentez of Thom̃s Hoppewode & Thom̃s Valentyne & Also ꝑte in Ffarneworth shal goo to ye paymentez of the mariagez of my ij doghꝰs Elsabeth & Alic vnto ye Sum̃ez of myn agrementez be content & payde And allso more oũ yt my doghť Elsabeth to haue xx mřc & Alic x mřc opon yt cõdicion yt thay nor thair husbandez do not trobull nor vexe Any of myn heyerez male nor my ffeoffe to ꝑfo[r]me this my will of Any of my londez And yt my broder Cristofer ye qwhich is my feoffe to execute yis my will shal paye of ye yssuez & ꝑfettez of ye said xxli worth of londez my broder Thom̃s Hawarden for ye mariag̃ of my doghť Elsabeth and ye said xxti mřc moř to my said doghtr Elsabeth And in like wyse to paye & cõtent Rog̃ Hulton for ye mariage of my said doghtr Alič if ye mariage goo furth & ꝑcede Acording to our ꝑmysez & couasudez As we ben Sworne And if it happen yt ye said Adm Hulton son & heyer of ye said Rog̃ Hulton decesse or ellez yt ye mariage goo not forth nor ꝑcede acording to our couasndez afor seid That yen ye said Xp̃ofer shal ꝑvide & se yt my doghtr Alič may be maryd to An As gud or A betť as ye said Adm of ye yssuez & ꝑfettez of ye londez afor rehersyd And Allso it is my will yt yf my goodez wil not ꝑfõme my will As in makyng of A chapell

& in fynding of A p'st to syng ij zer̃ And Also in gyffyng x mr̃c to ye sustentacion & vppeholding of ye devine s̃uic̃ of our ladye afor seid And allso yf y^t my goodez wilnot p̃fome y^t & ye residue of y^is my will Than my will is y^t wher̃ as my goodez lakyth y^t it shalbe taken vppe of ye residue of ye livelode y^t remayneth Aft^r ye discrecion of my saide Broder X̃pofer y^t is my feoffe Also my will is y^t my Brether̃ & Sisterez nowe being At ye Hopehey or other placez shall ther honestly be founden for ̃me of yeir lyvez of ye yssuez & p̃fettez ther rysing yf yay wyll be Rulyd & Gyded by ye said X̃pofer my Broder & ye said Xpofer to haue ye disposicion gyding & goun^a^nce of yeyme & of al ye lyvelode to se yeyme honestly kepyd rulyd & Gyded to ye sauacion & sakering of yayme & the lyvelode And if it so be y^t Any of my Brederez and Sisterez Afor Seyd wil not so be gouned than my will is y^t yai haue noo p̃te therof bot those y^t will be rulyd & Gyded As is afor said And also my wil is y^t ther be leyfte at the saide place ye Hopehay by ye avice of myn executo^r viij keyn beyng melch & iiij horses & marez & halfe ye Cornez y^t ther shall happen to be groyng oy̌wyse w^t All othir Stuffe of howsehalde ther being at y^t tyme allso my will is y^t myn said wyfe & myn ij doghe̊s Elsabeth & Alic̃ haue All myn othir Stuffe of howsehald deptyd euenly Among yayme excepte such goodes as ben heyerez lomez & the qwhech I be qwheth to be heyer lomez be longyng to ye heyerez male As a chalez w^t ye best masse boke w^t all othir vestmentez & Aue̊clothes w^t halfe a dosen Silů Sponez & a salt seler & a bassen & a lauer the best pott w^t a grete Brendreth And also a Hengytt Bedd y^t is to say the best måess ij coůlettez a payr of Shetes of ye Smalest w^t ij pyllow^s Also all Burdez [boards] f̃omez crestes Stonding Bedstockez & whele bedstockez w^t Stonding ffornesez & ledes w^t a malt Arke & a mele Arke w^t vj Brode disshows vj potyng̊ez & vj Savsers w^t ij Chaundelers And allso I beqwheth my othir masse boke to be longyng to ye chapell y^t shalbe Byggett at ye said chirch of ye Deyne Also it is my will y^t my Broder X̃pofer for the faythfull love & trist y^t I haue to hym to be true & stidfast to ye intentt of y^is my will shall haue x mr̃c zerly for ̃me of his lyve he to take it vppe of ye lyvelode of Harphey & of

ye tenntez and placez of Robt Barlow & Geffron Barlow & the residue to ye said Sume of x Mrs in Farneworth And also my wil is y^t^ my Broder Xpofer aft^r^ the mariag money paid for myn ij doghts & my will fulfyld shall take & resayue of my londez to ye sume of ij C Marks toward his pmoting Authir in his mariag or ellez in p'chasing of londez to his pmocion Also hit is my will y^t^ my Brothir Ric shall haue x^li^ in worth of my londez for time of his lyve to fynde hym & his wyfe opon Also it is my wyll y^t^ my Broder Xpofer Aft^r^ my will pfomed make an astate of v mrs to myn Broder Jamez & Robt for time of yeir lyvez of londez in Denton the remaydr therof of to ye heyerez male of my Broder Ric Also it is my will y^t^ my Broder John Chaidocke zerly durynge his fad lyve to haue vj^s^ viij^d^ opon y^t^ condicion y^t^ he endevoir hym to ye pforms of y^is^ my wyll & it to be taken ot such londez as best can be thoght by my said Broder Cristofer fforther mor my wil is y^t^ ther shall be made an ouley [overlay or tombstone] of marbull in ye said Chapell y^t^ shalbe bygged w^t^ ye ymage of me & my ij wyfez w^t^ my ij doghts g^a^uen [graven] of laton in ye same marbull and y^t^ the bonez of my fad & mod w^t^ othir of myn Ancesterez be broght & leyde there in ye same chapell And after then y^t^ all bequestez as is afor rehersyd be fulfylled and don my will is y^t^ all my hole enherit^a^nnce may descende vnto my Broder Ric & his heyers male to ye helping of his child yf god send hym any & so furth to euy of my Breder Acording to ryght & consciance And now be it knowen by yis my last will y^t^ sithen y^t^ I made myn vncle Thustan Tyldesley & my Broder Cristofer Hulton w^t^ othir my ffeoffes to execute y^is^ my last will And also to pvide & see y^t^ Aft^r^ this my last will be pfomed & don y^t^ ye hole enherit^a^nnce may groo & descende opon my said Broder Ric & his heyerez male Apon he be avysyd & rulyd by my said Broder Cristofer & so furth apon my Broder Thurstan & his heyerez male & for faute of yssue of yayme Apon myn next eldest Broder & so furth Acording to yair ryght letting all peple wete y^t^ sythen ye ffeffamēt maide vnto my said vncle Thurstan & vnto my Brother Xpofer & other y^t^ yai so being seased to myn vse afore seid lete all ye saidez londez to me Agayme for time of my lyfe And Sithen y^t^ tyme I neu made lessez bot for terme of myn Awne lyve

or ellez for ꝑme of zeres Acordynge to my ꝑmessez maide to my saidez ffeoffes And so be they seased & by me sythn y^t ffeoffamentt made neu̅ disseassed And zett y^t that nowe it is ꝑte oute of remembrance of ye said ffeoffamentt made to my said vncle Thurstan & vnto my Broder Xp̃ofer I haue maide an other feoffamentt to my said Broder Xp̃ofer sufficiant in lawe. Residuũ oiñ bonorꝰ meorꝰ nõ legatoꝝ do & lego Johane vx̃ mee & Cristofero fri meo & p̃ꝑes ordino et constituo executores meos vt ipi deũ p'octis heñt oiã p'dict s̃m hanc volũtatẽ meã ordinẽt & disponaꝝ vt si meli^s videbiꝝ^r ꝑfice ꝑ salute aĩe mee q̃ti^s corã altissio iudice volu̅int respondere & Robertũ Workesley & Thomã Tyldesley de Wordeley desido & facio ẽẽ supvisores vt volũtas mea ꝑ omia Ad impleaꝝ^r In Cui^s rei Testiõm huic sc̄pt̃ indentaꝝ Ac volũtati mee vltime Sigillũ meũ Apposui Hiis Testibus Thoma Hawarden Ranulpho Sonke Thoma Tyldesley de Pele John Bradshawe Sir Gilt Lever ye vicar of Bolton Dame Yssabell Radcliff & Ric̃ hir Son Jane Barton Sir Jamez Smetheley Sir Jamez Holden & aliis Allso hit is my will & Also I gyffe vnto Johan my wiffe xx^ti Marke to be taken of my Cornez and catellez be syde her ꝑte of the Stuffe of my householde yf she will take & agree there to Also hit is my will y^t my ij norisshez Aythur [either] to haue v^s Also hit is my will y^t my ij godsons Hug̃ son of Chet^am & Robyn Haliwall aythur to haue xl^d."

Will of Matthew Legh, of Swinehead, dated 1512.

In dei noĩe Amen. The iiij^th day of octobr in ye yeare of o^r lord god 1512. I Mathew Legh hole in mynd and sike in bodie doe [make] my testament and last will in manner and forme following.

Inprimis I bequeth my sole to almightie god and to his blessed mode^r seynt Mary, and to all the selestiall company In heuen and my bodie to be buried in the Chappell of Seynt Anne w^thin the ꝑish Church of Handley or there were it shall please allmightie god to call for me at his pleasure.

Itm I will and bequeth to Jane my wife the thyrd pte of my goods both moueable and vnmoueable. Itm I will and bequeth to my two dowzters Dorothey and Mary, all the Rest of my goods toward there p'ferment in mariage. Also I will if ought come to either of my saied dowzters that is to wit if either of them doe fortune to decease before that she be married, that then the Rest of the saied goods shall come and revert vnto thother daughter that is Longer Liuer.

Itm I bequeth to Gawen my yonger son six mks of anuitie for terme of his life the wch I excepted at the marieing mariage of my sonne Richard Leghe. Also I enstitute and make Jane my wife, Dorothey and Mary my daughters my true and Lawfull executors condisionally that yf Jane my wife do mari or else be against the pformance of this my last will to take effect, then I doe ordayne constitute and make Dorothey and Mary my doughters my executores of this my last will and Testament, and giue them full autoritie and power to see it pformed and fullfilled to the true intent thereof, these being witnesses Sr Hugh Sankie my goastly father, Oliuer Kimesford, Richard Cluworth wth others the day and yeare aboue written.

Inuentory of Mathew Leigh deceased.

Inprimis xxiiij Kie and a Bull	xx marks
Itm horses mares Colts and geldings ...	xx marks
Itm oxen yonge bests and neats	xx mks
Itm xx fatt Catell	xx mks
Itm Corne and hey	xx mks
Itm bedding brase and peauter wth other houshold stuffe	xx mks
Itm in apparell	xx mks
Itm for a tacke by Vpton for ye belieffes son	xxli
Itm of Swyne gese Capons & hens wth other pullen	xls
Sum is Cxvli vjs viijd.	

The Will of George Atherton, of Atherton, Esquire, dated 1513.[1]

This is ye last will and testament of me George Atherton Esq. made 23 Nov. 5 Henry VIII. [1513]. "If I fortune to be marryed my wief to have a joynture." John Atherton his son and heir then in his nonage. To Isabell his bastard daughter for her marriage £40. To Elizabeth Harrington his sister 6 marks. To an honest prest to pray devoutly for his soule in Leigh church 40 shillings per annum for 14 yeres. John Atherton son of my brother John the bastard, to have 40^s^ per annum for 14 yere to bring him upp at scole. Twenty marks to the buylding of the steple and bells in Legh church, and other moneys to the buylding of our Ladies Chappell in the said Legh church. "John Atherton, bastard brother of me the said George Atherton," mentioned in remainder. "My body to be buryed in Leghe church, nere the bones of my father and Anne late my wief." His daughter Margaret, borne since the making of the above will, to have 200 marks for her marriage, &c. John Atherton, son and heir and aged 5 years and more, is his next heir, and the said John Atherton was married by the said George Atherton his father, in his lifetime, to a certain Elizabeth daughter of Sir Alexander Radcliffe, Knt.

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[1] The above is an abstract of the will of George Atherton, of Atherton, Esq., as made by Dodsworth from the *Inquisition post mortem* [Dodsworth MSS., vol. 58], taken at Lancaster, 2 Sept., 10 Henry VIII. [1518], before James Worsley, Esq., Escheator, by the oath of Sir Henry Kyghley, Knt., Henry Ffaryngton, Esq., John Holcroft, Esq., Thomas Penkith, John Newport, Esq., Richard Holcroft, Roland Kirkby, William Browne, Thomas Redmayne, Brian Redmayne, &c. His manors of Atherton, &c., were by a charter, dated 23 Nov., 5 Henry VIII. [1513], granted to Sir Alexander Radclyfe and Sir William Leylond Knts., Richard Assheton, Peter Shakerley, Thurstan Tyldesley, and John Hopwood, Esquires, Thomas Longeley, clerk, and John Starkey, gent., as trustees for the uses declared in his last will and testament which is as above. [J. P. E.]

Will of William Swettenham, dated 1521.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 20th August 1521. I William Swetenham[2] make my testament in this manner.

"First I bequeth my soule to God to his Moder St Marye, & to all the holy companie of Heavyn. My bodie to be buried in the Paroche Chu: of Astbury, before the Image of blessed Lady. Also I bequeath my best beast in the name of a Mortuarye. Also I bequeth for my buriall & vnto or Ladies worke to be prayed for 13s 4d."

I give and bequeath to Elizabeth my wife 5 Mosseplaces with their appurtenances during her life, now in the holding of Agnes Strag, Richard Bore, Sybill Huett, John Lee, Ralph Wylkinson, with a field called Hasulsha and a croft lying within the same, so that she shall take William my son in signing of tenancies, reserving the profits to herself.

Also I give to Thomas my son one mose place with the appurtenances lying in Nether Somerford, during his life, now in the holding of William Deyne, of the annual rent of 21s. 1d., so that the said Thomas pay to the chief lord his rent, or to William Swetenham his elder brother 13d. yearly.

Also I bequeath to Roger my son, one mose place with the appurtenances during his life, in Over Somerford, now in the holding of John Bromall of the rent of 20s.

Also I give to William my son, the residue of all my lands and tenements and the land lying in Congleton with the appurtenances, to him and his heirs male for ever.

Also I give to Sir Hugh Hulse 20d.

Also I bequeath the residue of all my goods when my body is buried, to Elizabeth my wife the third part. Also the residue of all my goods not bequeathed and debts I give to my three daughters for their marriages.

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[1] From the *Swettenham Chartulary*, p. 27 [J. P. E.].

[2] William Swettenham, of Somerford Booths, Esquire, was fifth in direct descent from the Roger de Swettenham whose will is printed on page 7. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Christofer Savege, of Macclesfield, and had issue, at least three sons and three daughters. *Vide* pedigree, *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., p. 646.

Also I will that my executors and overseers shall receive my debts due to me and pay my debts.

Also I ordain and make Elizabeth my wife, and William my son and heir, my executors, and Thomas Dauenport of Henbury the elder, Esq., Thomas Manwaring of Caringam, and John Moreton of Moreton, overseers of this my will.

Witnesses, Edmund Key priest at Morton, Robert Stabbes, William Deyne, with others.

This will was proved before the Dean of the Deanery of Middlewich, and administration of the goods of the deceased granted to the executors within named, 12 Sept. 1521.

Will of Sir Piers Legh, of Lyme, Knt. and Priest, dated 1521.[1]

This is the last will of me Peris Leigh Knyght and prest maide the furst day of February in the xijth yere of the reigne of Kyng Henry the viijth of all such lands and tent^{s} & annuell Rentes to and of the yerely value of xl^{li} res'ved to me the said Sr Peris to giff and to gr^{a}unt to certen ꝑsonez sev'ally to terme of ther lyves not only so couen^{a}nted amongist other things in the Indenturez of mariage made betwix me the said Sr Peris Legh Knyght Apon that oon ꝑtie and Sr Thom̃s Gerard Knyght decessed apon that other ꝑtie bering dat̃ the xijth day of Septemb̃r the thrid yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the vij Botalso as shall accorde w^{t} the Indenturez of mariage made betwene Sr Thom̃s Buttler Knyght and Thom̃s Buttler his son and heire apparunt of the other [*sic*] ꝑtie and me the said Sr Peris and Peris my son and heire appar^{a}unt of the other ꝑtie bering dat the xxiijth day of July the xxijth yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the vijth. And in like case according to the Indenturez of mariage

[1] From the Legh of Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 2 [J. P. E.].

made betwene Sr Thom̃s Gerard Knyght that now is on the oon ꝑtie And me the said Sr Peris and Peris my son and heire apparunt on the other ꝑtie bering dat the xviij^th^ day of July in the ix^th^ yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the viij^th^. The whech landez and tent^s^ of the yerely value of xl^li^ at ev̊y the said mariagez so res'ved I the said Sr Peris by sev̊all dedis and lyv̊e of season [livery of seizin] therof haue yeuen and grunted in forme folowing that is to sey. To my son John landez and tentz to the value of x mrks by yere. To my son Gother landez and teñts to and of the yerely value of xx mrks to my son Richard iiij mrks by yere. To my brod^r^ Robt xliij^s^ yerely to my cosyn James Dounbill xl^s^ by yere to my S̊uñd Robt Ardren xl^s^ by yeř. To Matheu Arosmyth xxix^s^ yerely. To Peris Legh my brother son xxxiij^s^ iiij^d^ by yere. To my sust^r^ son Robt Orrell xxviij^s^ by yere. To John Kyghley my S̊uñd [servant] xxvj^s^ viij^d^ yerely. To James Atherton xxvj^s^ viij^d^ by yere. To Willm Naillo^r^ xl^s^ yerely. To Henry Arosmyth xx^s^ by yeř, and to Robt Smyth xx^s^ yerely. All whech landez and ten^ts^ of the yerely value of xl^li^ so giffen and grunted by me the said Sr Peris unto my said sonez brod^r^ cosyns ffrends and S̊uñds I will that thay and eůy of thame shall haue occupie and injoye the same and eůy ꝑ'cell thereof w^t^ the app^r^teñncs therto belonging during thař sev̊all lyvez according to the teno^r^ and effecte of thař grunts made or to be made. And I the said Sr Peris will that all my feoffez and Recoůers of and in the ꝑmiss and thař heirez and the heirez of me the said Sr Peris shall not lett vex nor troble my said sonez brod^r^ cosyns ffrends and S̊uñds nor Any of thame the occupacion and vse thereof contry to the teno^r^ of thař dedis thereof and that my said feoffez and Recoůers shall stande and be seased therin to the same vsez and intents aslone as the cause therof shall induř. And I will that my said feoffez and Recoůers and thar heirez shalbe seased of all the said landez and tent^s^ of the yerely value of xl^li^ as thay shall happen to come aft^r^ the deith of any of my said sonez brod^r^ cosyns ffrends or S̊uñds ten^a^ntez in the same for terme of lyve to the vse of me the said Sr Peris to thentent that of all the said lands & tentz of the said yerely value of xl^li^ and of ev̊y ꝑcell therof that shall discende or come to me the said Sr Peris by deithe of

any of my saids sonez brodr cosyns or Sruñds at any tyme in my lyve. That then it shalbe laufull vnto me the said Sr Peris to giff and graunt by my wlting the same landez & tentz and evy pcell therof or other landez of like yerely value vnto such other psonez as it shall please me the said Sr Peris for terme of thaī lyvez only. And I will that if Any such gift or grunt therof in like forme happen to be made at any tyme heraftr by me the said Sr Peris that then my said feoffez and Recoūlers shall so long stande and be seased in the same and in eu'y pcell thereof to the same vsez and intents above mencyoned and aftrwards my said feoffez and Recoūlers and thaī heirez shall stande and be seased of all and evy the singlr pmiss as the same shall happen to fall come And detmyn by Reason of deithe of the said psonez and of eūly of thame as the case therof shall fortune to thuse of me the said Peris and of my Right heires for eūl. In Witnes wherof I the said Sr Peris Legh Knyght and plst herunto haue set my seale of Armez & subsc'bid the sam̄ wt my hand the day & yer aboue rehersed.

[Signed] p me PET LEGH Kt & P.

Will of Sir Piers Legh, Knt. and Priest, dated 1522.[1]

This is the last Will and testament of me Peris Legh knyght & prest made the furst day of Decembr in the xiiijth yere of the Reigne of king Henry the viijth of all my goods & Catalls aswell whik as deid that I now haue or shall haue the tyme of my decease The whech goods & Catalls I will shalbe distribued by Edward Molenex pson of Sefton Thurstan Tildisley esquirer Willm Trafford squier James Downbill squier & Robt Ardren gentilmā myn executors as heraftr

[1] From the Legh of Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 2; this will relates to his funeral [J. P. E.].

folowith. In the furst I giff & beqwethe my saule to all myghty god o^r lady sant Mare & to all the Saynts in Heven And will that my said executo^rs of the Costs of my said goods cause my body to be buryed in the Trinite Chapell of Wynwhik afor̃ the myddist of the altur ther̃ Wher̃as the prest shall alwais the tyme of consecrac̃ion stand even ou̜ & apon my harte Thed^r to be borne w^t my ꝑsunds & oth^r cristenpeople And my best Beist be brōght to the Church for my mortuary And that my Standert bano^r & Coote Armo^r be had afor̃ my body to the Church in such condiciōn as shalbe thoght most cōuenyent by the aduyse of myn Executo^rs & the same then to be delyu̜ed into my Chapell at WynWhik ther̃ to Remayñ aft^rwards. And if it fortune me to decesse the space of xx^ti myles or aboue from the said Chapell Then it is my will to be broght thed^r upon A horse littur cou̜ed and the horses to be traped & cou̜ed with blacke and myn Armes to be sett on euỹ syde of the litto^r And the said Trappo^rs and cou̜yngs Īcontynēt aft^r to be devyded & dalt amongist poor folks And that my said Executo^rs apon my said goods & Catalls shall bye xl^ti gownes of blacke Clothe & devyde thame by thar̃ discreciōns to such ꝑson & ꝑsons as be of my howse and in my wagez and other my freinds And those & euỹ of thame to go abowte my body. Also I will that my said executo^rs of the said goods & Catalls shall bye xxiiij^ti gownes of white clothe & by thame to be giffen to xxiiij^ti of the porest of my tenñds and euỹ of thame to ber̃ A Torche in thar̃ hands and ber̃ thame abowte my body till I come to the Church & be buryed, whech torchs I will that my said Executo^rs shall bye w^t the cost of the saids goods & Catalls And theropon to giffe the halfe of thame to the said Trinite Chapell and the oth^r halfe to be giffen & deliu̜ed vnto or̃ lady Chapell at Distley. And also I will my said Executo^rs of thissues & ꝑfetts of my said goods & Catalls shall dispose for my saule the day of my buryall in massez & other almez at the Churche xx^ti pownds And a c̃ouenyent dyñ be ordyned of my goods at Bradley to all such gentilmen & other honest people as shalbe at my buryeng. Also I will that my said Executo^rs of my said goods & Catalls w^tin A monethe Imediatly aft^r my decesse shall cause A hundreth prests to say for me A hundreth massez & dirigs apon oon day that is to wett xx^ti massez of

Ihs xx^{ti} of the fyve wounds xx^{ti} of o^{r} lady xx^{ti} of the holy gost x of the Trinite & x of Requiem And euy prest to haue for the same iiij^{d} And euy prest to gett hym A Clerk to helpe hym say dirige & masse And euy of thame to haue ij^{d} And at euy masse aforsaid be offered A peny at the lauatory for me. Also I will my said Executo^{r}s of the said goods and Catalls shall bye Anoulley [an overlay] of Marbull & lay apon me w^{t} A picto^{r} aft^{r} me & my wieff and o^{r} Armes to be set in atho^{r} of o^{r} Coots and A supsc'pcion to be set on the said Oulley shewing o^{r} names & the dais and yeris of o^{r} decessez. Also I will that my said Executo^{r}s of the said goods & Catalls euy good ffryday vij yeris to geth^{r}s next aft^{r} my decesse shall distribuet ij^{s} vj^{d} amongs the porest of my tenñds w^{t}in Werington pich and WynWhik pishe And also euy even of o^{r} lady fyve yeris to gethu^{r}s next ensuying my decesse thef to be giffen of the same goods to fyve of the porest of my said tenñds seually iiij^{d} and euy of thame be required to knele apon thaf knees w^{t}in the said Trinite Chapell the said evens and euy of thame therfor to say A lady sauto^{r} for my saule. Also I will that my said Executo^{r}s of the same goods & Catalls giff vnto euy gentilman of my howseholde besids thaf wags xiij^{s} iiij^{d} euy yoman vj^{s} viij^{d} And euy laborer iij^{s} iiij^{d} And to kepe thame and euy of thame togeth^{r}s apon my Cost A monethe aft^{r} my decease if thay will abyde. Also I will that may son Peris shall haue all the residue of my goods not beqwethed by writing nor by mothe afor Recorde remayneng ou the expens of my buryall and the accomplishment of this my will & willez fulfilled condicionally that he suffr myn executo^{r}s and distributo^{r}s aswell of my goods as of my lands to execute the same & all other my willez & euy article therof w^{t}owt vexacion of hym or any other by his pcuring or consent and ellis he to haue no pte therof And if my said Executo^{r}s will not execute this my said will according as is aboue cōpsed w^{t}out delay or plonging of tyme that so pved Then I will thay no forthur therin shall intmedill in Any Wise And theropō then I will myn especiall good lord Cuthberte now busshop of London Sr Willm Molenex & Sr Willm Stanley shall distribuete & dispose euy pte of all my singlr goods & Catalls according to the vsez & intents herin specified. In Witnes wherof I the said Sr Peris herunto haue sett my seale

of Armez And subscribed the same w^t my hande the day and yere afor̃ said.

[Signed] p. me PET LEGH k^t & prest.

[A large circular seal circumscribed SIGILL. PETRI DE LEGH, bearing a shield quarterly, 1st and 4th a cross and in the dexter chief a fleur de lys [*Haydock*], 2nd and 3rd a cross indented [*Legh*]. The shield is surmounted by an esquire's helm and a mantlet with the crest of a ram's head upon a wreath.[1]]

Will of Sir Piers Legh, Knt. and Priest, dated 1522.[2]

This is the last Will of me Peris Legh knyght and prest made the furst day of Decembr in the xiiij^th yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the viiij^th [1522] of all my lands & tents w^t thar̃ App^rtenncs in Hanley Wytnesith that whear̃ at the Shir̃ holden at Chest^r the tuysday aftur clausũ pashe in the vj yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the viij^th [1515] Willm Stanley of Hoton knyght Alexand^r Radcliff of Ordishall knyght Rauff Ardron esquier Rog̃ Downes esquier John Sutton esquier Ranulph ffyton Clerc Willm Bruge Clerk Ranulph Hylton Chaplen and Rog̃ Lewins Chaplen Recou̇ed agaynest me the said Sr Peris Lẽgh knyght and prest all my landez & tents w^t thar̃ app^rtenncs in Hanley by the name of xxxv^ti mesuagez oon wat^r mylne CC Acres of lande lx Acres of medoo CCCCC Acres of pastur̃ A thosaũnd Acres of wood too thosaund Acres of more w^t thapp^rtenncs in Hanley Alwhech Recouỹ was and shalbe to thuse of me the said Sr Peris And of myn heirez malez & to the ꝑformacion of this my last will therof to be declared Wheropon I the said S^r peris declare my last will in the ꝑmissez in man̄ & forme folowyng that is to say ffurst I the said Sr Peris will

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[1] In these arms the quarters are transposed and the cross of the Legh coat is indented instead of engrailed.

[2] From the Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 3; relates to Disley Chapel [J. P. E.].

that the said Sr Wiłłm Stanley of Hoton knyght & all others his forsaid Joynt Recoūs shall stande & be seased of and in all the said Mesuags lands & teñts wt thaī apprtenncs in Hanley aforī said to the vse of me the said Sr Peris during my lyef And that thay shall stande & be seased therof to thaym and thayr heirez during the terme of tenne yeris Imediatly aftr the decesse of me the said Sr Peris to thusez & intents ensuyng That is to wete, that the said Sr Wiłłm Stanley & all others his Joynt Recoūs of and in the singlr pmissz shall suffrī Edward Molenex pson of Sefton Thurstan Tildisley esquier Wiłłm Trafford esquier James Downbill esquier & Robt Ardron gent whome I make myn executors of this my psent will to take & Receyue all thissuez & profetts of the same mesuags lands & teñts wt thaī apprtenncs cōphended & specified in the said Recouȳ during all the said terme of tenne yeris all whech issuez & pfetts therof to be taken & Receyued by my said executors I will shalbe cōvehid vnto the monasty of Sant Werburs in Chestr & to be put in saue keping in A substanciall Cofor locked theī to be standeing & Remaynyng of my Costs & Chargs And that euȳ of my said Executors shall haue A seūall locke & key apon the same and that my said executors in as shorte space aftr my decesse as thay in any wise cōuenyently can shall wt the issuez and pfetts of the same mesuags lands & teñts wt thaī Apprtenncs in Hanley prchase lands or Rents in fegh simple to and of the yerely value of tenne pownds or asmoche therof as I the said Sr Peris aftī the daī herof in my lyue do not purchese whech lands & teñts or Rents so purchesed I will shalbe to thuse & intents conteynedd in c'ten indentures made or heraftr to be made concnyng the sustentacion of A Chapell that is by me the said Sr Peris edified in Distley in the Countie of Chestr in the honor of or lady for eū mor P'uydait alwais that I the said Sr Peris will that the said Sr Wiłłm Stanley of hoton knyght & all othr his Joynt Recoūs of & in the pmissz & thaī heirez shall stande and be seased of and in the Cheffe place cald Lyme in Hanley wt certen lands in Hanley aforī said cald Lyme pk in Hanley And the watr mylne wtin the same pk pcell of the said mesuags lands & tents mēcioned in the same Recouȳ to thuse of my son Peris or of hym that shall happen to be myn heire male of my

body lawfully begotton cōdicionally that thay suff^r my feoffez Recouers & Executo^rs to accomplishe & ꝑforme all & euy article cōꝓhendit in this my Will or any oth^r my Willez of lands or goods w^towt lett or dist^rbaunce of my said herez malez or of any other ꝑson or ꝑsonez in thaꝯ names or by thaꝯ ꝑcuring abbetting or consent And if it happen att any tyme heraft^r any of my said heirez malez or any other ꝑson or ꝑsons in thaꝯ names by thaꝯ good will or consent let or dist^rbe my said feoffez Recous or executo^rs to ꝑfo^rme & fulfill this my said will & all oth^r my said willez or Any Article therof That then I will that the said Sr Willm Stanley and all oth^rs his Joynt Recouers feoffez and executo^rs shall suffꝯ my singlr good lord Cuthberte now busshoppe of London Sr Willm Molenex knyght & Sr Willm Stanley knyght Whom I make supviso^rs of this my will to haue occupie and Inioye to thame & thaꝯ heirez or assignez the said Cheffe place cald Lyme in Hanley And the oth^r said certen lands in Hanley calde Lyme ꝑk in Hanley and the wat^r mylne W^tin the said ꝑke to thaꝯ awne vsez and ꝑfetts during the space of xx^ti yeris next and Imediatly aft^r my decesse that thay in considacion therof may Ayde my said executo^rs that thay may peaseable ꝑforme this my will and all others my willez accordingly Providait also that I will my said supviso^rs during all the same yerez shall resaonably vse the game theꝯ And w^t ꝑcell of the said Reuenez & ꝑfetts therof shall vpholde & Repaꝯ the saids Cheffe place & oth^r buyldings theꝯ edified And in lyke case the Ryng pale of the same ꝑke in suꝯ and sufficient maner And w^t the ꝑfetts of the said Recepts discharge thaꝯ Chargs & expens in that behalfe Also I the said Sr Peris will that all my executors in the fest of Sant John baptist come Atwelmond aft^r my decesse or w^tin xx^ti dais then next aft^r apon my Costs & Chargs to be taken of ꝑcell of the saids mesuags lands & tents shall come vnto o^r lady Chapell of Distley theꝯ and then to haue A due accompts & Reconyng of all thaꝯ Recepts had & taken And so furth yerely aft^r the same forme during the said tene yerez or as long therof as thay shall haue cause for the execucion of this my will of & in the ꝓmiss And for the ꝑvision of such Anornaments & od^r necessariss & expens that most be had

for the said Chapell conteyned in my will of my manor of Dalton that then shall happen not to be completly made or vnpvidait And then & so from tyme to tyme at euy such meting of my said executors thay do comyn to gethurs & conclude for the most spede of the Accomplishment of my said willez in euy condicion according to the true intents of the same And if my said executors do not applye thame selfe for the good expedicion of this my will according to the true intents herof in euy pticlr clause & poynt of the sam wtowt omytting tyme that pved Then I will that thay ner any of thame shall any forthr medill as myn executors bot vttrly cease thar hands from the same & euy pcell therof And that then I will that all my said Recouers of and in the pmiss shall suffr my said singlr good lord Cuthbert busshop of London & the said Sr Willm Molenex & Sr Willm Stanley to take & Receyue the hoole issuez & pfetts of the said mesuags lands & tents in Hanley during all seasonez & termez aboue expressed to thentent that thay therwt may plenaryly accomplishe this my said last will & euy pte therof wtowt plonging of tyme according to the singlr intents rehersed And aftr this my will aboue rehersed be fully in euy condicion cōpletly executed & pformed according to the Articles of the declaracion therof & the conclusion of the same Then I the said Sr Peris will that then & from thense furthe the said Sr Willm Stanley of Hoton knyght and all other his Joynt Recouers and thar heirez & assignes shall stande and be seased of all the cheffe place cald Lyme in Hanley and the said other lands cald Lyme pke in Hanley & the watr mylne wtin the same pke And of all others the said mesuags lands & tents medowez pasturez morez and woods wt thar singlr apprtenncs & lybtiez in Hanley afor saids Imediatly aftr the vsez therof & of euy pcell of the same as thay be depmyned & endit by Reason aboue declared that is to say to the vse of the heirez malez of the body of me the said Sr Peris laufully begotton and for defaut of such issue male to thuse of myn heirez malez of myn Auncestoūnrs made in tymes past according to the euydence and Aunceunt talez of the sam In witnes wherof I the said Sr Peris Legh knyght & prst vnto these psents haue set my seale of Armez

& subsc'bet the same w^{t} my hande the day & yere aboue Rehersed.

ꝑ. me PET LEGH. K^{t} et prest.

Endorsed.

This is the will of Sr Peres Legh knyght & preist wherin is appoynted Rents to be levied in Hanley to purchase lands for the mayntenĩnce of ꝯvice at Distley.

The Will of Thomas Davenport, of Wilmslow, dated 1523.[1]

In dei noĩe Amẽ Anno dñi Millesimo quĩgentesimo vicesimo tercio vicesimo octavo die Novembris y^{t} I Thom^{a}s Dauẽport hole in body & hole in mynd make my Wyll in y^{s} man' & forme foloyng ffyrste I beqwethe my saule to Almyghty god & to hys blesset mod' owr lady saynt Mary & to all ye holy cũpeny of heyven & my body to be buryet in ye chyrche of our blesset lady of Wylmyslow afore ye chancell zette. Also I gyffe my best beeste to be in ye name of my mortuary. Also I gyffe all my londes & godes aft' my decesse to Alys my wyffe excepte ij^{s} of ye londes & tenements now in ye holding of . . [Erasure.] . . Jeffrey Alcoke which I have gyffen to owr lady s'vice aft' my deptyng duryng her lyffe & aft' her decess iij^{s} iiij^{d} of ye same londez which I haue gyffen by my dede to owr lady s'vice for eu'. And also excepte xxvj^{s} viij^{d} whiche I wyll shall be gyffen to Jone Dauẽport. Also I wyll y^{t} iiij bushell of whete be delte to por' pepull at my bryngyng whome yf I deyle it not in my lyffe. Also I wyll y^{t} it to be knowen to all mẽ y^{t} I have made noe feoffemẽt nor astate bot y^{t} my wyffe may pleseably occupye all suche londez & tenements as I haue gyffen by a feoffement to Henry Trafford ꝑson of Wylmyslow & Wyll^{a}m Wylme of Oghtrynton & other & y^{t} I take apon my charge. Also I wyll y^{t} non of my heyrys shall haue nor clayme no heyre lomys for my fad' nor I haue neu' non. Also I make my executors Alys my wyffe & Sr Robt Deveas truly to execute y^{s} my

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[1] From the Fulshaw Deeds, *p.* 182 [J. P. E.].

wyll. Also I wyll y^t^ Mayst̃ Edmūd Trafford of Trafforde suyer & Henr' Trafford pson of Wyllmyslowe be my ou'seers of y^s^ my laste wyll which I haue sette my seale in ye p'sence of Robert Walt̃ Syr Thom^a^s Hut Syr Rog' Hoghe Randull Dauẽport Rauffe Lycestr John Halderhed Thom^a^s Hoghthe Wyll^a^m Alcoke George Mosse.

On a small sheet of parchment. Endorsed that it was proved xxiiij day of July 1526.

The Will of Sir Richard Sutton, Knight, dated 1524.[1]

[2] Qũa media vita in morte sumus & omnes eḿ morim^r^ & quasi aqua in terram dilabim^r^ que non reu'tetur 2 Reg. 4 [*for* 14] Ideo Saluator noster volens nos omnes paratos invenire nos ortatur Et estote parati quia qua hora non putatis filius hñis veniet. luce. 3° [*for* 12] Sed quia mortis tempus incretũ est Nescit homo finem suũ Ecci 9°. Et vt inquit stultũ est in tali statu viuere que quis non audet mori Ideo &c.

IN THE NAME OF OURE LORD JHŨ CRIST ETC̃ I RYCHARD SUTTON KNIGHT of hoole mynde by the helpe and grace of the most gloryfied Trynite the xvj day of marche yn the xv yere of the reign of kynge Henry the viij^th^ orden & make my last wyll & testament yn forme folowynge FFYRST I bequeyth my sowle unto the blyssid Trynite throgh the meke p^a^yer of the most pure & mekest vyrgyn the mother of Jhũ cryste my body to be buryed afore the ymage of oure lady Mer as hytt schall fortune me to dyscease with this Antem of oure lady Apon my grave Stone SUB TUAM PROTECCIONEM CONFIDIMꝫ UBI INFIRMI ACCEPERUNT

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[1] Sir Richard Sutton, of Sutton, co-founder of Brasenose College, Oxford.

[2] The quotations are from the Vulgate, and should be as follows:—

(*a*) Omnes morimur et quasi aquæ dilabimur in terram quæ non reuertuntur. ii. Reg. xiiij. [now called ii. Samuel].

(*b*) Et vos estote parati quia qua hora non putatis Filius hominis veniet. Luca xij.

(*c*) Nescit homo finem suum. Ecclesiastes ix.

VIRTUTEM ET ꝑPTER HOC TIBI PSALLIMUS DEI GENITRIX VIRGO. ITEM I bequeyth to the mast' of the Temple for my tythes & offeryngs forgotten & nott payde and also to praye for me xx^{s} yf hytt happen me to discease ther. ITEM I bequeyth to eũy [every] preist of the Temple by cause they schall say eũy nyght dyrige durynge the moneth and masse of Requyem on the morowe w^{t} note iij^{s} iiij^{d} yf hytt happen me dyscease ther. ITEM I wyll that at the day of my buryenye be deyled [dealt] to poore men v^{li} [£5] eũy man a penny. ITEM I wyll that A vertuouse priest be founde at Sutton or at Macclesfeld w^{t} the ꝑffetts of suche landys as I haue purchased yn Ches^{s}hyre to pray for my sowle my fader & mother & all the ꝑgenye sowles And for the sowles of kynge Edward the fourth quene Elyzabeth his wyffe Elyzabeth duches of Suffolk my lord Ryvers my lord Rychard my lord Thomas late marcus [Marquis] Dorsett Nycholas Talbott Crystofer Hyde And for all the sowles that god and I wold have prayde for. ITEM I wyll that the sayd preist schall eũy weke for eu' [ever] on munday Wednesday & ffryday saye dyrige w^{t} placebo for my sowle & the sowles afore sayd and saye mass wekely on munday of the Annũcyacon of oure blessyd lady on Wednysday of the fyve woundes of oure lord Jhũ on ffryday of Jhũ And so for eũ [ever] & all other dayes schall saye masse of the daye Except a resonable cause lett the same. AND I wyll that my cosyn John Sutton and hys heyres haue power to putt yn the sayd preist into the sayd chauntre and he be of mysgydynge to putt hym owte & putt yn another. PROVIDED that my sayd cosyn or hys heyres putt in a vertuose preist into the s'uice [service] w^{t}in iiij weks orells [or else] I wyll that the bysshoppe of Chestre for the tyme beynge do putt yn a vertuose preist ynto the sayd s'uice to do as ys aforesayd. PROVIDED that hytt be nott ꝑiudyciall [prejudicial] unto my sayd Nevewe nor to ys heyres for the puttynge yn of the sayd preist into the sayd s'uice but alonly for that tyme a defawte schalbe yn hym or theym. ITEM I wyll that the sayd preist haue yerely iiij^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} [£4. 13^{s} 4^{d}] for hys wages and that he haue lands appoynted unto hym for the payment of the same. ITEM I bequeyth to my Nevewe John Sutton wyffe on of my gownes. ITEM I bequeyth to Clements yn [Clement's Inn] xx^{s}. ITEM I for

gyff Roger Legh of Pech^{a}m viij^{li} that I lent hym when he was fyrst maryed and also I bequeyth vnto hym a gowne & xx^{s}.

ITEM I wyll that my Obytt be kept yerely at Macclesfeld for eu' at suche tyme of the yere as hytt schall please god to call me oute of thys worlde And that diryge & masse be kept there And that eũy preist therat beynge present schall haue v^{d} And the scole mast' of the gramer scole viij^{d} hertly [heartily] praynge hym that all the chyldren of the gramer scole may be ther to saye dyrige for my sowle and the sowles that god & I wolde haue prayed fore And I wyll that the sayde chyldren schall haue yerely ij^{d} yf thay do as ys aforesayd and yn lykewyse I wyll that my father & mothers Obytt be keptt yerely both at one tyme And the preist scole mast' & chyldren doynge as is aforesayd haue at dyrige & masse of eũy yeres mynde of my sayd father & mother and me as is aboue rehersyd at my yeres mynde And I wyll that xx^{s} of the yssues & ꝑffetts of my londes yn Chesshyre go eũy yere to the ꝑformacon of eũy of the sayd ij Obytts yn Chesshyre And that remayneth of the sayd xx^{s} I wyll hytt be delyd amongs poore folkys at the sayd Obytt. ITEM I wyll & pray my cosyn John Sutton and my ffeeffees of my landys yn Chesshyre to ꝑforme my wyll aforesayd and yf all my ffeeffees dye except iij then I wyll that those iij that ou' lyve make a newe feofment to x ꝑsons of my lovers & frends to thentent aforesayd and so from tyme to tyme as ofte as nede schall requyre for eu'. ITEM I wyll that xl^{s} be spent abowte the makynge of the hygh wayes abowte Seynt Gyles yn the ffelde. ITEM I will that my lady Abbasse of the monasterye of Syon haue xxli to praye for me as I entend theyr weyle [weal] most lowly besechynge theym of their grett charyte to do the same to my powre sowle & to forgyve me. ITEM I the sayd Rychard wyll that all suche ꝑsons and theyr heyres that stande & be possessyd & seased of my howses & teñts yn Braynforthende whiche I late purchased of Jane Wolmer wydowe and of a close that I haue on the north syde of the Kyngs hygh waye ther shall stande be possessyd & seased therof to the vse of me the sayd Rychard and myn heyres And to ꝑforme my last wyll to thentent that w^{t} the ꝑffetts of the same as fer [far] they wyll extende they schall goo towardes the ffyndynge of an honest

preist to pray for my sowle and all the sowles that god & I wolde haue prayde fore. And that the sayd preist schall haue all the ꝑffetts of the same towarde hys wages to teche all those women that yntende to be ꝑfessyd & admytted vnto the howse of Syon & my lady Abbasse yf hytt please her to gyff the sayd preist meete & drynke & loggynge And the sayd preist to saye grace dayly and to gyff attendaunce apon the Stewerd of the sayd howse of Syon at dynner & supp' And to do dyvyne s'uice afore hym. ALSO I wyll that my sayd ffeoffees schall stande and be seased of the ꝑmysses yn Braynforthende to thentent afore sayd vnto suche tyme my sayd lady Abbasse or her Successors may opteyne & gett of the kyngs grace hys heyres or Successors suffycyent lycence of the mortifyenge of the premysses to the sayd Abbasse & her Successors. And also lycence of the lordys medyate & immedyate And aft' suche lycence by theym opteyned & hadd of the ꝑmisses then my said ffeoffees shall stande & be seased of the ꝑmisses to the vse of my sayd Lady Abbas & her Successors for eu'. And that my feoffees schall make a suffycent astate & feoffment to my said lady Abbas & her Successors of the ꝑmisses for eu' to thentent afore sayd so that the sayd lycence be ofteyned [obtained] & gotten w^t^in the space of xx^tie^ yeres next aft' my dyscease.

ITEM I wyll & bequeyth to Thomas Sutton my berehowse at Braynforth brigge ende to hym and to hys heyres male of his body ꝑuyded [provided] allwey that the sayd Thomas do well kepe the reꝑacõns [reparations] of the same & paye the chefe rent therof & res'uyd [reserved] & exceptyd vnto me & vnto my heyres the Thackyd howse on the west syde of the berehowse. ITEM I bequeyth to Wyllm Sutton hys brother v^li^. ITEM I bequeyth to George Sutton hys brother beynge yn the newe College yn Oxford xl^s^ toward his ffyndynge. ITEM I bequeyth to the sayd Thomas Sutton hys hoole yeres wages aforehonde vnto the tyme he may gett hym a newe mast' w^t^yn the same yere.

ITEM I wyll that my nevewe John Sutton of Sutton and hys heyres haue all the ꝑffetts of my landes yn Chesshyre Schropshyre & Derbyschyre ymmedyatly aft' my dysease so that they truely & yerely ꝑforme thys my last wyll and so that he nor hys heyres do nott sell any ꝑte of theym but

kepe a good howseholde and kepe his chyldren to the scole and help to sett loue [love] charyte Amongs hys neyburs. ITEM I wyll that my sayd nevewe haue the ꝑffetts of all my lands yn Totenhall Courte aft' the dyscease of my cosyn George Sutton & of all my other lands & heredytaments in Mydylsex except the lands and heredytaments afore bequeythyd to my lady Abbas of Syon & except the fflode mede whiche I gyff & bequeyth to my cosyn George Sutton of the quenys howse for t'me [term] of hys lyffe And except other lands bequeythyd. ITEM I wyll that Rychard Sutton yeoman of the Chamber w^t^ the qwenes g'ce [grace] shall haue all those lands the which Lawrans Ledam holdyth to ferme in Istyllworth which be yerely v^li^ & more. ITEM I wyll that my lady of Darfforde haue x marks to ꝑy [pray] for my sowle and those sowles that god & I wolde haue p'yed for And also I wyll that my lady of Dennye haue xl^s^ to doo lyke wyse. I wyll that my cosyn Ellyn Coplond have v marks to ꝑy [pray] for me. ITEM I bequeyth to my nevewe John Sutton of Sutton my beddynge & my howshold stuff that I haue yn the Syon & yn the Temple & at Seynt Gyles. And I wyll that he haue my Krymesyn veluet dublett & one of my best gownes & my cosyn hys wyffe an other gowne for to pray for my sowle & for thos sowles that god & I wold haue prayd fore. ITEM I wyll that my fvneralls & my dettes payd which ys non to knowlege that the money that remaynyth schall go to my cosyn John Sutton of Sutton [underneath erased and altered to "the ꝑncypall & schollers of Brasynnose to pray for my sowle & thos that god & I wolde have prayd fore."[1]].

ITEM to the executynge of thys my last wyll and testament yn the ꝑmisses I orden and make the reu̅ende [reverend] ffather yn god John bysshoppe of Calepole & mast' of Seynt Thomas of Akers yn London my nevewe John Sutton of Sutton, my cosyn Rychard Snede John Poorte s'geaunt at the lawe & Rychard Lyst̅ and Rog' Legh of Rygge my executors lowly besechynge theym to doo for me & my sowle as they wolde be done fore and charytable to se my wyll executed. Wherfore I wyll that the sayd John Poorte haue v marks for hys labure Rychard Lyst' v marks & Rych' Snede v marks And that all my sayd executors

charytably do for my sowle. ITEM I orden & make my sayd lady abbas of Syon & Mr John Ffewterer gen'all confessor of the said monasterye And mast' Alexaunder Bell my gostly ffader ou'seers of this my ꝑsent last wyll and testament most humble beseechynge theym to forgyff me that I haue offendyd theym yn worde warke or thought And of theyr Charyte that hytt may please theym to pray for me wt all the hole covent as I trust I schall pray for theym in hevyn. I YE SAYD RYCHARD revoke all other fformer wyllys except thys present wyll AND YN WITNES of the ꝑmisses I haue subscrybyd this wt my seke hande by me Sr Ryc Sutton Kneght.

The Will of Sir John Stanley,[1] of Handforth, dated 1527.

In Dei Nomine Amen This the laste wyll of me Sir John Stanley of Honford Knyght In this my wrytynge Indented vnder my seale declared and specyfied concernynge the disposicyon of all the Manors mesuages Burgages landes Tenñts Rents Comodites Reuercyons and fines with theyr appurtenñnces in Honford Bosden Asheton Sale

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[1] Sir John Stanley was the natural son of the celebrated Bishop of Ely and Warden of Manchester. The Bishop was well known as a gallant soldier, and is commemorated in some of the contemporary poems recording incidents at the Battle of Flodden, at which battle Sir John Stanley, then barely more than a boy, himself took a distinguished part.

Sir John married Margaret, only daughter and heiress of William Hondford, of Hondford, who fell at Flodden. They appear to have had one son John, who married, but died subsequently without issue, when the estates passed to Sir Urian Brereton, who had married the widow of Sir John Stanley.

In January, 1527-8, that is, six months after the making of the above will, the testator purchased "letters of fraternity" for himself, his wife Dame Margaret, his son and heir apparent John Stanley, and his sister Anne Stanley, from the Abbot of Westminster, and a few months later Sir John and Lady Margaret obtained a divorce from one another, so that they might severally devote themselves to a religious life. Sir John became a monk at Westminster, and probably died there; his wife, however, as stated above, subsequently married Sir Urian Brereton, Knt.

Altryngh^{a}m Badeley Fadely Torkynton Burlond Bromley Stoke Yaiton Buglawton Holmewalfeld and Hawkeslegh w^{t}in the forest of Maxffeld w^{t} thavouson of the Church of Ashton afforsayd in the countye of Chestur Off the wheche sayd Manors messuayges Burgages landes Tenements and other the premysses and of the rents proffits and Revenues therof commynge and growynge And also of all other manors landes and Tenñts nowe beynge in reuercyone To Dame Mergaret wyffe vnto me the forsaid Sir John Stanley I the said Sir John Stanley maye lawfullye therof and of all other the premysses make and declare my laste will durynge the nonage of the heire apparant of me the said Sr John Stanley and of the said Dame Mergaret my wyffe of our bodies lawfully comynge accordynge to the couuen^{a}ntes grauntes and Agrementes made betwene me the said Sr John Stanley and the said Dame Mergaret my wiffe on the one and firste partie and Dame Kateryne Maynwairyng widowe on the second partye and Edmond Trafford of Trafford Esquier on the thyrde partye by Indentures tripertyte thereof made betwyxte vs berynge date the xijth daye of February in the xvijth yere of the Reigne of Kynge Henry the viijth in manor and forme as in the same Indentures more at large it is declared specifyed and conteyned. Fyrste I the said Sir John Stanley by this my will declare and ordeigne That the warden vicaries and reves of the college churche of Manchestur in the countye of Lancastur and their successours for the tyme beynge immediatly after they haue receyvyd this present will Durynge the Nonayge of John Stanley the yonger sōne & heyre of the bodyes of me the said Sir John Stanley and Dame Mergaret my wyffe lawfully begotten beynge of thayge of thre yeres at the makynge of this present wyll shall have take levey and perceyve [*sic*] all Rentes proffites and Revenues of the sayd Manors mesuages Burgages landes Tenements and other the premysses Accordynge to the yerlye valew therof which yerlye valewe therof is estemed to be as it apperethe in a Rentale to thys my Wyll annexed to this use and Intente that the same Rentes proffites and Revenues by the said warden vicaries and Reves soo receyvid shalbe saffely layde up in a sure Coffer havynge tooe lockys thervnto w^{t}in the said College And the said wardene and wycaries to

haue one keye therof in theyr custodye and the sayd Reves for the tyme beynge to haue an other keye therof in ther custodye and then as well the said warden vycaries and theyr successours as the said Reves and theyr successours to dystrybute and paye yerlye of the said Rentes proffittes and Revenues in fforme ffolowynge That is to wete ffyrste To paye and Delyuer yerlye iiij^{li} of the said Rentes proffytes and Revenues durÿge the said nonayge vnto Sir John Bryddoke preste to thentent that he therfore shall synge Masse daylye at the greate awlter w^{t}in the newe Chapell of Sayntt John Baptiste vppon the Northsyde of the said college Churche of Manchestur And there to praye for the sowles of James Stanley somtyme Bushope of Ely of me the said Sir John Stanley and Dame Mergaret my wyffe oure heyres and auncestres and for the sowles of Willm̃ Honford Elen & Anne And for all crysten sowles Also I woll that vij^{d} sterlynge of the said Rentes proffites and revenues shalbe euery weke yerly vppon the fryday Dystrybuted and gyven in almes by the said warden vicaries and Reves to vij Dyverse poore pepull in peny Dole w^{t}in the said newe chapell durynge and by all the tyme of the said nonayge Also I woll that xl^{s} of the said Rentes proffytes and Revenues shalbe euery lent yerely vppon good fryday Distrybuted and gyven in Almes by the said warden vicaryes and Reves to poore pepull in penye Dolle w^{t}in the said newe Chapell & church durynge and by all the tyme of the said Nonayge Also wheare as I am indettyd vnto the kynges grace for conduyt and preste money in the sōme of xlj^{li} v^{s} iiij^{d} and to the prior of Sainct Oswoldes Nostell in Yorkeshyre in the sōme of xxiij^{li} xij^{s} vi^{d} for a dett which James Stanley late Bushop of Ely owght to the said pryor I woll that the said warden vicaryes and Reves shall trewly content and paye of the said Rentes proffittes and Revenues the said sōmes vnto the kynges grace and to the said prior w^{t}in a yere and a halffe nexte after the syght and receyvynge of this wyll by the sayd warden vicares and Reves and when the said sōmes be soo payd vnto the kynges grace and to the said pryor Then I woll that the said warden vicaries and Reves shall frome thensforth yerlye duryng the said nonayge ley vp xxv^{tili} of the said Rentes proffites and Revenues by it selffe in the said Coffre w^{t}in the said College

vnto the tyme that the sōme of ccl. li be saffely leyd into the said Coffre w^{t} ye which ccl. li. I woll that the said warden vicaries and Reves shall bye and pourchace landes and tenementes to the clere yerly valew of xli. ouer all charges as shortly as they convenyently can ffynd suche landes to be solde soo that the said landes and Tenementes of the clere yerly valew of xli be boght and pourchassed wyth in xv yeres next after the receyvinge of this wyll by the said warden vycaries and Reves or theyr successours And I woll that the said landes and Tenementes of the clere yerly valew of xli soo porchassyd shalbe to thes vses and intentes That is to saye That vli of the Rents and proffytes therof shalbe yerly to thuse and ffyndynge of Sir John Bryddocke preste durynge his lyffe to synge masse as is abouesaid And then the said payment of iiijli to hym to be payd as it is afforsaid to ceysse and not to be payd And after his discease yerly for euer to thuse of an able Chaūntre preste to synge Masse dayly at the greate awlter w^{t}in the sayd newe chapell at Manchestur afforsaid And ther for euer to pray for the sowles aboue rehersid in this will and I woll that myn heyres of my bodye lawfully cōmynge shall alwaye haue the nomynacyone of the said chaūntre preste soo to be fownded and for deffaute of suche heyres I woll that the sayd warden and hys successours and the sayd Edmond Trafforde and hys heyres shall joyntlye for euer haue the nomynacyon of the said chauntre preste only to thuses and intentes before rehersyd Also whear ther is one chauntre of iiijli yerly stablyshed and fownded by me the said Sir John Stanley for euer to endure to a chaūntre preste w^{t}in the said newe Chapell and for as moche as the sayd iiijli. yerlye is verey littell for a chaūntre preste to lyue theruppon I woll therfor that landes of the clere yerlye valewe of xx^{s} of the said landes of the yerly valewe of xli soo to be pourchassyd as is afforsayd shall yerly for euer goo and be to thuse of the said chauntre and to the augmentacyone therof to thentent that the chauntre preste therof shall yerly haue and take a C^{s} w^{t} the sayd iiijli. Also I woll that landes and tenementes of the clere yerly valewe of xxx^{s} of the said landes of the yerly valewe of xli soo to be pourchassed shalbe to this vse and intent that the rentes proffites and Revenues therof shall

yerlye for euer be distrybuted and gyven amonges the sayd warden vycaries Decons Querestours clerkes and Belmane officers of the sayd college churche and theyr successours to be ratyd and payd to theym indyfferently after theyr auncyent custume in such case vsyd And they to kepe therfore yerly foreuer a solempne Obyte w^{t}in the said newe Chapell the Mondaye next after the daye of the Concepcyon of our lady saynct Marye and a solempne Masse on the morowe nexte followynge and theratte to praye for the sowles before rehersyd And if it happen the said warden or eny of the said vicaries Decons Querestours Clerkes or other officers of the sayd College Churche at eny tyme to be absent and not present at the said Obyte or Masse then I woll that all suche sōmes and perceles of money of the sayd landes and tenementes of the yerly valewe of xxx^{s} soo pourchassed as shuld be distrybuted and gyven amonges theym soo beynge absent frome the sayd Obyte or Masse shalbe distributed and gyven to the tooe chaūntre prestes w^{t}in the said newe Chapell as ofte and at euery tyme as suche defawte in beynge absent is made by theym as is afforsaid Also I woll that landes and tenementes of the clere yerly valewe of xxx^{s} of the sayd landes of the yerly valewe of xti. soo to be pourchassed as is afforsaid shalbe to thys vse and intent that the rentes proffytes and revenues theroffe shall by the said warden vycaries Reves and theyr successours yerely for euer be dystrybutyd and gyven in Almes every lent on good fryday to poore pepull in peny Dolle w^{t}in the sayd newe Chapell & church to praye ffor the sowles before rehersyd Also I woll that landes and tenementes of the clere yerly valewe of xx^{s} of the said landes soo to be pourchassed and the rentes proffyttes and revenues therof shall yerly goo and be to thentent and vse That the said Newe Chapell shalbe therw^{t} for euer vpholde and maynteyned and sufficyently repayred and to ffynd to the sayd Chapell ornamentes and all other thynges necessare as nede shall requyre alwayes hereafter by the ouersyght and appoyntment of myn heyres afforsaid and of the sayd warden vycares and churche reves and theyr successours Also I woll that the sayd warden vycaries reves and theyr successours shall delyuer and paye of the said rentes proffytes and revenues of the forsayd

manours landes and tenementes in the prymes of thys wyll specyfied to the pryor and convent of the Cathedrall Churche of Ely or to theyr successours L. li sterlynge w^{t}in vii yeres next after the receyvynge of this wyll by the said warden vycaries Reves or theyr successours and the said pryour and convent or their successours w^{t} the sayd L. li shall pourchace landes and tenements to the clere yerly valewe of xl^{s} and the rentes proffytes and revenues therof shall yerly goo and be and also made sure by the lawe to the sayd pryor and convent and to their successours for euer to be ratyd and dystrybutyd amonges theym yerly aftur theyr auncyent custume in suche case usyd and they to kepe therfor yerly for euer a solempne Obyte in the said Cathedrall Churche of Ely the Monday next before the daye and feeste of the Anñncyacyon of our ladye Sayncte Marye or w^{t}in thre dayes therof and a solempne Masse on the Morowe nexte folowynge and theratt to praye for the sowles before rehersyd and for all crysten sowles and the sayd pryor or hys successours to pourchase the same landes and tenementes w^{t}in the space of vii yeres nexte after the haue receyved the sayd L. li. And yf it happen that they said landes and tenementes of the clere yerlye valewe of xl^{s} can not be boght and pourchassyd w^{t}in ye sayd Terme of vii yeres by the sayd pryor or hys successours as is afforsayd Then I woll that the sayd sōme of L. li shalbe yerly payd and distrybuted to the vses and intentes aboue specyfyed in manour and forme as the rentes proffyttes and Revenues of the same landes and tenementes of the sayd yerly valewe of xl^{s} shuld haue bene dystrybuted as longe as the sayd L. li wyll endure and streche And I woll that the sayd warden vycaryes and Reves on their successours at the delyuere of the said L. li. shall take a sure and sufficient bonde of the sayd pryour and Cōuent or of their successours vnder their Conuent seale in wrytynge of the sōme of a C. li. to performe and fullfyll the same in euerye condicyon accordynge to the trewe intent of thys wyll Also I woll that the sayd warden vycaryes and Reves or their successours shall endever theyme to see that the sayd landes and tenementes of the said clere yerly valewe of x. li soo to be pourchassyd as is afforsaid be made sure in the Tytyll therof by the lawe as lernyd Councell by theym

appoynted shall devyse it to be made by fyne, ffeoffament release recouuerye or otherwise to the vses and Intentes aboue rehersyd accordynge to the trew intent of this wyll the costes and charges in the lawe of the same suertye to be made to ryse growe and be of the forsayd rentes proffytes and Revenues of the sayd manors landes and tenementes in the Prymes of this wyll specyfied in maner as herafter it is declaryd and specyfyed Also I woll that yf the sayd warden vycaries or theyr successours do not obserue kepe and performe all and euery artycle and condicyon on theyre partye and behalffe to be obseruyd and kepte in maner and fforme as it is before rehersyd concernynge the landes and tenementes of the sayd clere yerly valewe of xli. soo to be pourchassed and of the rentes proffyttes and Revenues therof comynge that then upon defawte therof made it shalbe lawfull to the heyres of the bodye of me the sayd Sr John Stanley to entre in to the same landes and tenementes of the sayd yerly valewe of x. li soo pourchassed and theym to possede and haue onlye to thuses and intentes before rehersyd Or elles yf it shall happen me the sayd Sr John Stanley to haue none heyre ne heyres of my bodye lawfully begotten that then vpon suche defawte made in maner as it is before rehersyd by the sayd warden vycaries or their successours it shall be lawfull to the forsayd Edmond Trafford and Sr Alexander Rattclyffe of Hordesall Knyght and theyr heyres to enter into the sayd landes and tenementes of the sayd yerlye valewe of x. li soo pourchassed and theym to possede and haue foreuer onlye to thuses and Intentes beffore rehersyd Also I woll that Incōtinent after all the landes and tenementes of the sayd yerlye valewe of x. li be pourchassyd establyshed and made sure by the lawe as it is afforsaid to the vses and intentes aboue rehersed That then w^t^in a monethe nexte after suche suertye as therof made the said warden vicaries and Reves or theyr successours shall of the said Rentes proffytes and Revenues of the forsaid manours landes and tenementes in the prymes of thys wyll specyfyed content and paye vnto the forsayed Edmond Trafford xx. li. sterlynge for hys payne and laboure takyne to see thys my wyll fullfylled and obserued in euery thynge and to be assistant and helpynge at all tymes to the

same Also I woll that the sayd warden vycares and Reves or their successours After all the said landes and tenementes of the sayd yerly valewe of x. li. be soo pourchassed and made sure by the lawe as it is afforsayd to the vses and intentes aboue rehersyd that then w^{t}in the sayd space of a moneth next after suche suertye is therof made shall of the sayd rentes proffytes and revenues of the forsayd manours landes and tenementes in the primes of this wyll specyfyed take and receyve xx. li. sterlynge to their owne vses to be distrybuted amonges theym ratably after theyr behavyoure in resonnable maner for theyr paynes and labours in this behalffe takyn and to thentent to see this my wyll obseruyd and fullfylled in euery thynge Also I woll yf it fortune that landes and tenementes of the sayd yerly valewe of x. li can not be fully pourchassyd w^{t}in the said space of xv yeres that then the sayd warden vycaryes and reves or theyr successours shall w^{t} the Resydewe of the sayd ccl. li and w^{t} more of the sayd Rentes proffyttes and revenues of the sayd manours landes and tenementes in the primes of this wyll specyfyed as nede shall requyre pourchasse an yerly Rent in ffee of the marchaūtes of the staple of Caleys after xxx^{ti} yeres pourchase more or lesse as it can be hade and opteyned to make and fullfyll the sayd yerly valewe of x. li. soo to be pourchassed And the same yerly rents to be made sure by thadvyce of lernyd Councell onely to thuses and intentes aboue rehersyd And if it fortune that the sayd yerelye Rent cāne not be soo pourchassyd ne opteyned of the sayd marchaunts ne landes and tenementes to the sayd clere yerly valewe of x. li. as is afforsayd Then I woll that the Resydewe of the sayde CCL. li. remeynynge at the sayd xv yeres ende which shuld haue goone to the pourchassynge and opteygnynge of the said landes or rentes of the said yerly valewe of x. li. soo vnpourchassid shalbe yerly payd and distrybuted to the same vses and intentes aboue specyfied in maner and forme as the rentes proffytes and revenues of the same landes and rentes of the sayd yerly valewe of x. li. shuld haue bene dystrybutyd as longe as the resydewe of the sayd CCL. li soo remaynynge wyll endure and streche Also I woll that iijli. sterlynge of the

rentes proffites and revenues of the manours landes and tenementes in the primes of this wyll specified shall yerly be kepte and layde in a sure place wtin the sayd college as is afforsayd to and for the costes and charges to be spent in the lawe to make the sayd landes and tenementes of the sayd yerly valewe of x. li soo to be pourchassyd as it is afforsayd sure and lawfull to the uses and intentes aboue rehersyd and to and for the Defence and other costes resonnable as well of and for the same landes and reparacyons of the same as of and for the deffence and reparacyons and other costes resonnable of the sayd manours lands and tenementes in the primes of this wyll specyfied as nede shall requyre at any tyme herafter by the good ouersyght of the said Edmond Trafford and his heyres Also I woll that the said warden vycares and reves or their successours shall content and paye of the rentes proffites and revenues of the forsaid manours landes and tenementes in the prymes of this wyll specyfied xv. li. sterlynge yerely durynge the sayd nonayge at the feestes of the Natyvite of Sayncte John Baptyste and Saynte Marten in wynter by evyn porcyons to the Abbes and Conuent of the Nonnere & Monasterye of Barckynge or to theyr successours for performance of suche couueñnts and agrementes as be conteyned in wrytynge made betwene the sayd Abbes and Conuente and me the sayd Sir John Stanley Also I woll that the sayd warden vycaires and reves or theyr successours shall content and paye of the rentes proffyttes and revenues of the forsayd manours landes and tenementes in the prymes of this wyll specyfyed x. li. sterlynge yerly durynge the sayd nonayge at the said feestes of the Natyvite of Sayncte John Baptyste and Saynct Marten in wynter by evyn porcyons to thabbot and conuent of the Monastere of Westmynster or to their successours for performance of suche couueñntes and agrementes as be conteyned in wrytynge made betwene the sayd Abbot and Conuent and me the said Sir John Stanley Also I woll that after the discease of me the said Sir John and of Dame Mergaret my wyffe the forsayd Edmonde Trafford shall receyve and take all the rentes proffytes and revenues of the Manor of Ashton vppon Mercey Banke whych is estemed to be of the yerly valewe of xl. li. to the onely

vse and ffyndynge of my said sōne and heyre Apparaunte tyll he come and be of the full ayge of xxi^{ti} yeres And I woll that my sayd sone and heyre shalbe in the custodye and kepynge of the said Abbes of Barckyng tyll he accomplyshe and be of thayge of xii yeres and after the sayd age of xii yeres I woll that he shall be in the custodye and guydynge of the sayd Abbot of Westmynster tyll he come and be of hys full ayge of xxi yeres Also I woll that the sayd Edmond Trafford or hys heyres after the discease of me the sayd Sr John and Dame Mergaret my wyffe shall content and paye of the rentes proffytes and revenues of the sayd Maner of Ashton xx. ti yerely durynge the sayd nonayge at the sayd feestes of the Natyvite of Saynct John Baptyste and Saynct Marten in wynter by even porcyons to the sayd Abbes of Barckynge and to the sayd Abbot of Westmynstur or to theyr successours to fynde my sayd sōne and heyre and hys serũuntes meyte drynke and wayges conuenyent and all other thynge necessare vnto theym durynge and by all the tyme that he shalbe in the rule and guydynge of the sayd Abbesse and the sayd Abbot as it is afforsayd And I woll that in the meane seasson immedyatly after the forsayd sōmes be payd vnto the kinges grace and to the sayd Pryor of Sayncte Oswoldes as is afforsayd the sayd warden vycaryes and reves shall content and paye of the rentes proffytes and revenues of the sayd Manor of Ashtone xx. ti yerly at the sayd feestes by evyn porcyons vnto the sayd Abbesse and Abbot for the fyndynge of my sayd sōne and heyr and his serũntes as is afforsayd Also I woll that all the Resydewe of the rentes proffytes and Revenues of the sayd Manor of Ashton ouer and besydes the charges aboue rehersyd remeynynge after the discease of me the said Sir John and Dame Mergaret my wyffe shalbe delyueryd and payd by the sayd Edmond Trafford or his heyres vnto my sayd sōne and heyre when he shall come and be at his full ayge of xxi^{ti} yeres to haue to hys owne propre vse And I woll that my sayd sōne and heyre shall not be maryed tyll he come and be of the ayge of xxi^{ti} yeres and then yf he be mynded to marye I woll that he shall chose his wyffe hymsellfe by the good advice and Councell of the sayd Abbot of Westmynstur and of the sayd Edmond Trafford And I woll that he shall haue

all the proffyte of his maryage money to his owne vse to be to hym delyueryd at hys full ayge of xxi^{ti} yeres And wheare as the sayd Edmond Trafford hathe an yerly fee or pencyon of xl^{s} goynge owte of the landes and tenementes in Honford afforsayd to thentent to see this my wyll fullfyllyd and kepte in euery thynge I woll that he soo dooynge shall haue and enioye the sayd yerly pencyone of xl^{s} accordynge to hys patent therof made Also I woll that the sayd warden vicaries and reves yerlye durynge the said nonayge shall trewly content and paye of the rentes proffytes and revenues of the forsaid manours landes and tenementes in the prymes of this wyll specyfyed vnto Kyrstouer Ashley xxvi^{s} viij^{d} To Thomas Hunte xx^{s} to Roberte Delahaye xiij^{s} iiij^{d} To Roger Cooke xiij^{s} iiij^{d} To Gyles Halywall xiij^{s} iiij^{d} some tyme my housholde serũntes Also wheare as Thomas Sneyd lernyd in the lawe and Roger Leegh haue ether of theym an yerly fee or pencyon of me the sayd Sir John Stanley of xxvi^{s} viij^{d} And wheare also George Leegh of Manchestur hath an yerly fee or pencyone of xx^{s} And also wheare Geffraye Browne hath an yerly fee of vi^{s} viij^{d} I woll that they and euery of theym be trewly content and payd the sayd yerly fee or pencyone durynge the nonayge of my sayd sõne and heyre soo and vpon condicyon that they and euery of theym be aydynge helpynge and assistynge w^{t} theyr best councell labor and advice at eny tyme when they or eny of theym shalbe resonnably requyred by the sayd Warden vycares or reves or by the sayd Edmond Trafford to and for the performynge and fullfyllynge of thys my wyll accordynge to the trewe Intent therof Also I woll that the sayd warden vicares and reves shall paye yerly durynge the sayd nonayge to Alexandre Marten xx^{s} To Anne Stanly syster vnto me the sayd Sr John or to her assignes xx^{s} To Mode Peers x^{s} To Agnes Davye wydowe xiij^{s} iiij^{d} To Ales Byrome xiij^{s} iiij^{d} Provided alwayes that the sayd warden vicares and reves shall yerlye paye the forsaid sõme of xv. ꝑ vnto the sayd Dame Mergaret Stanley my wyffe or to her assignes durynge her lyffe And also shall paye the forsayd some of x. ꝑ and the sayd sõme of xx ꝑ. of the rentes of Ashton afforsaid vnto me the said Sr John Stanley or to myn assignes durynge my lyffe at the feestes afforsayd and after our disceasses then the sayd sõmes to be

payd in maner and forme as it is aboue specyfied vnto the sayd Abbesse and to the sayd Abbot accordynge to the trewe intent of thys wyll And I woll that all and euery the paymentes aboue rehersyd excepte the payment of L. li aboue specyfied to the forsayd pryor of Ely shalbegynne to be payd and delyuered Immedyatly after the receyving of this wyll by the sayd warden vycares and Reves or theyr successours And the sayd paymentes frome thensforthe to contynewe and be payd yerlye at the feestes afforsayd by evyn porcyons durynge the sayd nonayge accordynge to the trewe menynge and intent of thys will as it is aboue specyfied Also I woll that after all and euery of the premysses be obseruyd kepte and performyd accordynge to this wyll in maner beffore rehersyd that then the resydewe and ouerplus of the rentes proffytes and revenues of the sayd Manours landes and tenementes specyfyed in the prymes of this wyll remeynynge shalbe by the sayd warden vicares and reves or by theyr successours devyded in to iiij parties and one parte therof to goo and be yerely to thuse of the sayd College Churche and newe Chapell of Manchestur and the seconde parte therof to be yerly to thuse of the churche of Chedyll in the countye of Chestur and the thryd parte therof to goo and be yerlye to thuse of the Churche of Ashton afforsaid and the fowrhte parte therof to be distrybuted yerly by the said warden vycares and reves euery lent on goode frydaye to poore pepull in penye dole durynge the said nonaige w^t^in the said thre churches And they to pray for the sowles aboue rehersyd And as to the reuersyone of the forsaid manors landes and tenementes in the prymes of this wyll specyfied which shall come and be to theires of me the said Sir John Stanley and Dame Mergaret my wyffe lawfully comynge after the dethe of Sybill Warren and Margery Holford I woll that after the discease of the said Sibill and Margere or eyther of theym the rentes proffytes and revenues of the same manours landes and tenementes soo beynge in reuercyone excepte the landes and Teñtes percell of the said maner of Ashton shalbe yerly devyded by the said warden vicares and reves or their successours into fowre partyes wherof one parte shalbe by theym distrybuted yerly to the vses of the said thre churches and the seconde parte therof

yerly to be by the sayd warden vycaryes and Reves distrybuted in Almes to poore pepull euery lente on good frydaye in peny dole w^{t}in the sayd thre churches and the thyrde parte therof yerly to be by the sayd warden vycares and reves gyven to poore wydowes indyfferently to be delyuered to theym by evyn porcyons and the fowrhte parte therof yerly to be dystrybuted and gyffen by theym to poore maydens w^{t}in the said thre parysshes durynge the sayd nonayge equallye soo that one of theym haue noo more therof then another Also I woll that all tenauntes and ffermours that nowe be in possessyone or revercyone of the forsayd maners landes and tenementes in the prymes of this wyll specyfied whech haue taken eny howse or lande to ferme of me the said Sr John Stanley by lease promyse or otherwyse duely proved that they and euery of theym shall haue holde and enioye suche landes and tenementes soo takyn in ferme durynge theyr leasses and grauntes w^{t}oute paynge of eny fyne or income. And I woll that the said Edmond Trafford after the dethe of euery Teñnte or Teññtes of the said manours landes and tenementes in the primes of this wyll expressyd shall appoynte newe Tenauntes w^{t}oute takynge of theym eny fyne or income And I woll that the reuerende ffaders in God Cuthberte Tunstall Busshoppe of London and Edwarde Erle of Derbye and Thomas Lord la Ware & John Abbot of Westmynster and the forsaid Edmond Trafford Sr Alex^{r} Ratclyffe knyght and my sayd sōne and heyre apparaunte and their heyres and successours to be supervysours ayders helpers and assystentes to and for the obseruynge performance and executynge of this my laste wyll accordynge to the trewe intente theroffe in maner and forme as it is beffore declared and specyfyed whome I require and in the way of charite desyre to see that this my wyll be performed and fullfylled in euery behalfe In witnes of the premysses to eyther partye of this wrytynge indentyd I the said Sir John Stanley haue putt to my seale Yovin at Westmynstur the xxxth daye of June the yere of oure Lord God A. mcccccxxvijth

[Signed] JOHN STANLEY K.

The original will, of which the foregoing is an accurate copy, I found in August, 1867, among the muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and is contained in one large sheet of parchment. The seal was then quite legible, but broken into two pieces. The arms thereon were . . . 3 eagles' legs . . . . on a chief indented 3 bucks' heads caboshed . . . . Impaling, Quarterly 1 and 4 . . . . an estoile . . . . 2 and 3 . . . . a scythe . . . . Crest, an eagle's head erased . . . . holding in its beak an eagle's leg. . . . .

Attached to the will was another sheet containing the rental mentioned, as follows :—

[J. L. CHESTER.]

Rentale omniū terrarū et teritorꝓ Johis Stanley militis infra com̄ Cestr̄ pro festo Sti Johis Baptiste A° Rꝓ H. Octavi

Honford.

Imprimis the demayne lands of Honford To the gresse } xv^ll^

Rychard Hardey xx^s^

Uxor Rauffe Benet xiiii^s^

John Astyll vii^s^ vii^d^ and xxi^d^ ob̄

Uxor Thomas Ryle ix^s^ and xxiii^d^ ob̄

Thomas Hunt for John Ryles howse xii^s^ vii^d^ and xxiii ob̄

Uxor James Dave xviii^d^

Roger Cooke for Merget Holmes howse xii^d^

John Mosse xii^d^

John Neldes x^d^

John Mosse for the Mylne xx^s^

Sm̄ xix^ll^ xiij^s^ ob̄.

Fadely.

Imprimis WilliamWilbram xxiii^s^ viij^d^

Thomas Palyn xxi^d^ am̄c iiij^d^

Thomas Sheynton xlvi^s^ vi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Dave Woodwere xx^d^

Ryc̄ Bull x^s^ vi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

John Botteley ij^s^

James Huxley xxij^s^ vi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Thomas Cartwryght xvi^s^ am̄s iiij^d^

Thomas Palyn v^s^ viij^d^

Agnes Pollet vi^d^

Cristouer Brayne vi^s^ ix^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Rentale omniū terrarū et teritorꝓ Johis Stanley militꝓ infra Com̄ Cestr̄ pro festo Sti Martini in hyeme anno Rꝓ Henrici octavi

Honford.

Imprimis the demayne landes of Honford to the gresse } xv^ll^

Richard Hardey xx^s^ and xviii^d^

Uxor Rauffe Benet xiiii^d^

John Astyll vii^s^ vii^d^ tac̄ ij^d^ and xxi^d^ ob̄

Uxor Thomas Ryle ix^s^ tac̄ ij^d^ and xxi ob̄

Thomas Hunt for John Ryles House xii^s^ v^d^ tac̄ ij^d^ and xxiij ob̄

Uxor James Dave xviij^d^

Roger Cooke for Merget Holmes howse xii^d^

John Mosse xii^d^

John Neldes x^d^

John Mosse for the Mylne xx^s^

Geffron Brownes Benets and Astiles for Mosse Chekyns } xviii^d^

Roger Downes for chieff Rent of little Evangreff } xii^d^

Sm̄ xix^ll^ xvii^s^ iiij^d^ ob̄

Fadely.

Imprimis Willm Wylbram xxiij^s^ viij^d^

Thomas Palyn xxi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Thomas Sheynton xlvi^s^ vi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Dave Woodwere xx^d^

Ryc̄ Bull x^s^ vi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

John Botteley ij^s^

James Huxeley xxii^s^ vi^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Thomas Cartwright xvi^s^ am̄s iiij^d^

Thomas Palyn v^s^ viij^d^

Agnes Pollet vi^d^

Cristouer Brayne vi^s^ ix^d^ am̄s iiij^d^

Thomas Hurlbote iiij^{s} viij^{d}
Willm Wryght xi^{s} vi^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Hughe Crage ix^{s} am̃s iiij^{d}
Robert Hurlbote xiii^{s} viij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
John Yevynson xxv^{s} am̃s iiij^{d}
John Aleyne ix^{s} vi^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Wyll^{m} Huxley xv^{s} vi^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Uxor Thomas Yevynson xxiii^{s} ij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
John Damport xiij^{s} vi^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Robert Brayne x^{s} iij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Roger Crecheley iij^{s} viii^{d}
John Whythed x^{s} am̃s iiij^{d}
Hugh Maynwarynge iiij^{s}
Hughe Rawlynson viij^{s} am̃s iiij^{d}
Rob̃t Sayvill xi^{s} viij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Randall Sheynton ii^{s} vi^{d}
Rauffe Betteley ij^{s} vi^{d}
Willm Hatton v^{s} iij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Rychard Woodward xxij^{d}
Cheff Rent of Fadeley } Wyll^{m} Wilbram x^{d}
Wyll^{m} Wilbram for Thomas Dune viij^{d}
Wyllyam Brayne ix^{d}
Theyres of Rydley vi^{d}
Thomas Bromley iij^{d}
John Maynwayrynge xviijd
Roger Maynwayrynge iij^{d}
John Botteley ii^{s} vi^{d}
Theyres of Rychard Chomley iij^{d}
John Itell ii^{s} vi^{d}
John Brayne iij^{d}
Peres Egerton x^{d}
Theyres of Herry Halghton ij^{d}
Ryc̃ Egeley iij^{d}
Homfraye Wylbram xviij^{d}
John Aleyn iiij^{d}
John Baddcoke xiij^{d}
Theyres of Roger Graylay ob̃
Homfray Wylbram for Wylkynson ob̃
Theires of Hugh Halywell par seroticar̃ j^{d}
Sm̃ xvij^{li} x^{s}

Altringham.
Thomas Devyas v^{s}
Uxor Wyll^{m} Herryson xxij^{d}
Horsfall iij^{d}
Sm̃ vii^{s} j^{d}

Thomas Hurlbote iiij^{s} viij^{d}
Wyll^{m} Wryght xi^{s} vi^{d} am̃c̃ iiij^{d}
Hughe Crage ix^{s} am̃c̃ iiij^{d}
Rob̃t. Hurlbote xiii^{s} viij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
John Yevynson xxv^{s} am̃c̃ iiij^{d}
John Aleyn ix^{s} vi^{d} am̃c̃ iiij^{d}
Wyll^{m} Huxley xv^{s} vi^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Uxor Thomas Yevynson xxiii^{s} ij^{d} am̃c̃ iiij^{d}
John Damporte xiii^{s} vi^{d} am̃c̃ iiij^{d}
Robert Brayne x^{s} iij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Roger Crecheley iij^{s} viij^{d}
John Whythed x^{s} am̃s iiii^{d}
Hugh Maynwayrynge iiij^{s}
Hughe Rawlynson viij^{s} am̃s iiij^{d}
Rob̃t Saywyll xi^{s} viij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Randall Sheynton ij^{s} vi^{d}
Rauffe Betteley ij^{s} vi^{d}
Wyll^{m} Hatton v^{s} iij^{d} am̃s iiij^{d}
Rychard Woodward xxij^{d}
Cheff Rent of Fadeley } Wyll^{m} Wylbram x^{d}
Wyll^{m} Wylbrā for Thomas Dune viij^{d}
Wyll^{m} Brayne ix^{d}
Theires of Rydley vi^{d}
Thomas Bromley iij^{d}
John Maynwayrynge xviij^{d}
Roger Maynwayrynge iij^{d}
John Botteley ii^{s} vi^{d}
Theyres of Rychard Chomley iij^{d}
John Itell ii^{s} vi^{d}
John Brayne iij^{d}
Peres Egerton x^{d}
Theyres of Herry Halghton ij^{d}
Ryc̃ Egeley iij^{d}
Homfray Wylbram xviij^{d}
John Aleyn iiij^{d}
John Badcoke xiiij^{d}
Theyres of Roger Grayley ob̃
Homfray Wylbram for Wylkynson ob̃
Theires of Hugh Halywell par seroticar̃ j^{d}
Sm̃ xvij^{li} x^{s}

Altringham.
Thomas Devias v^{s}
Uxor Willm Herryson xxii^{d}
Horsfall iij^{d}
Sm̃ vii^{s} j^{d}

Ashton.

Imprimis John Arrall v^{s} iijj^{d} aḿs xviij^{d}
Willm Johnson xij^{s} iij^{d} aḿc xviij^{d}
John Thomasson ix^{s} iij^{d}
John Thomassō for the brode acre & the yorde } iij^{s} x^{d}
Rādale Barlow and James Barlow for Caballs } xxviii^{s}
James Barlowe for Cloghes howse xiij^{s} ij^{d} aḿc xviij^{d}
Rychard Torner xi^{s} aḿs xviij^{d}
Roƀt Thomasson v^{s} xi^{d} aḿs ix^{d}
Willm Barlowe xiij^{s} ij^{d} aḿc ix^{d}
George Barlow viij^{s} aḿc xviij^{d}
Randall Barlow xii^{s} ij^{d} aḿc xviij^{d}
The children of Bryan Hyndes ix^{s} aḿc xviij^{d}
John Barlowe viii^{s} xi^{d} aḿc xviij^{d}
John Whitlege iiij^{s} i^{d} oƀ aḿc xviij^{d}
The chyldren of Willm Devyas xiij^{s} iv^{d} aḿc xviij^{d}
Herry Chorleton iiij^{s} x^{d} aḿc xviij^{d}
Wyllam Johnson for a lond of ground iiij^{d}
James Taylour iiij^{s} aḿc xiiij^{d}
James Holynpreste et uxor Roƀt Ashton } viij^{s} aḿc xviij^{d}
John Holande x^{s}
Uxor John Ferror ii^{s} vi^{d}
Gylbert Arowsmythe iij^{s}
James Holynpreste ix^{d}
Wyll^{m} Myllyngton iiij^{d}
Rawfe Kempe ix^{d}
Wyll^{m} Johnson for the Mylne hyll ij^{d}
Roƀt Thomasson, James Barlowe, John Chorleton, Elsabeth Barlowe wydowe for the wood hey } xl^{s}
Item for Turves to be solde yerely on Ashton mosse } xx^{s}

Sm̄ xiij^{li} x^{s} oƀ.

Ashton.

Imprimis John Arralle
Willm Johnson
John Thomasson
John Thomassō for the brode acre and the yorde iij^{s} x^{d}
James Barlowe for Cloghts howse } xiiij^{s} ij^{d} aḿc xx^{d}
Ryč Turner xi^{s} aḿc xvij^{d}
Roƀt Thomasson v^{s} xi^{d} aḿc x^{d}
Uxor James Barlowe xiii^{s} v^{d} aḿc x^{d}
George Barlowe viii^{s} aḿc xx^{d}
Randall Barlowe xii^{s} ijd aḿc viij^{d}
The children of Bryan Hyndes ix^{s} aḿs xiij^{d}
John Barlowe viij^{s} xi^{d} aḿc viij^{d}
Rauffe Devyas iiij^{s} i^{d} oƀ aḿc xvij^{d}
The chyldren of William Devias } xiij^{s} iiij^{d} aḿc viij^{d}
Henry Chorleton iiij^{s} x^{d} aḿc xiiij^{d}
William Johnson for a lond of grownd } iiij^{d}
James Taylour iiij^{s} aḿc viij^{d}
James Holynpreste & the wyf of Roƀt Ashtō } viij^{s} aḿc viij^{d}
John Holand v^{s}
Uxor John Ferror ij^{s} vj^{d}
Gylbert Arowsmyth iij^{s}
James Holynprest ix^{d}
Wyll^{m} Myllyngton iiijd
Rawfe Kempe ix^{d}
Wyll^{m} Johnson for the mylne hyll } ij^{d}
Robert Thomassone, James Barlowe, John Chorletone, Elsabet Barlowe wydowe for the woodhey } xl^{s}

Sm̄ x^{li} xvi^{s} iiij^{d} oƀ

Sm̄ totalis per annum lxxx.xix^{li}

Memorand in Sibill Waren handes for her Joyntor and dower by the holle yere xxxv^{li} x^{d}

Memorand in Margery Holfordes handes for her Joyntor and dower by the holle yere xi^{li} iiij^{s} j^{d}

The Will of Robert Langley, of Agecroft, Esq., probed 1528.[1]

In dei noĩe Amen Anno dnĩ M^{lmo} D^{mo} xxiiij^{mo} die mensis ffebruarij vicesĩo secũdo: [1524-5] Ego Robert^{s} Longley armig̃ Cõpos ment^{s} et Sane memorie (videns mũdũ hũc fore Caducũ ejsq3 timẽs fragilitatem & ne subito me mors occupet) Condo meũ testamẽtũ siue meam ultiãm volũtatem in hũc modũ. In ꝑmis lego ãiã meã deo õipotenti bt̃e marie õibsq3 sc̃is et Corpus quoq meũ sepeliend̃ in noua Capella ex ꝑte australi ꝑochialis eccl̃ie bt̃e Marie de P̃stwyche. It̃ lego meũ aũliũ noĩe mortuarij mei. It̃ when my fuñall expens^{s} and my detts ben payed I will the residue of my goods by my executors be deuided into iij ꝑts. On ꝑte therof to the ꝑformãce of this my will as here after dothe ensue. It̃ the secũde ꝑte therof to Aelenowre my wiff. It̃ the thride ꝑte therof vnto my ij Sons Edmũd Longley and Lawrens Longley Equaly by my executors to be deuyded to theym. It̃ I will my executors shall take of my said thride ꝑte to ye flaggyng of ye flore of ye said new Chapell. It̃ I beqweth to ye Byldyng of y^{e} ꝑoche churche of owre lady of Eccles vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} to be payed and delyuered to ye said werke by my executors as the werke gothe ffurthe [*above the amount is interlined* "solu^{t} iiij^{li}. It̃ sol̃ xxvj^{s} viij^{d}. It̃ solu^{t} xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}"]. It̃ I will that if eny goods of my said ꝑte doyth remayne my executors shall dispose hit as they shall thynke most Conueniand. It̃ I beqweth to my Cosyn Robert Langley heire apparent vnto me the seid Robert A sylũ pese w^{t} A Coũ to ye same My Best fether-bedde ij Coũ-letts ij blanketts A payre of schets A bolstur and ij peloys my Best hangyng of ye Chamber w^{t} ye best Coũyng belongyng to ye Same bedde Also all thȳges appartenyng vnto ye Chapell that is to witt A Chales A masse boke Al vestimẽts for A ꝑst to saye masse w^{t} An altare portatile w^{t} oỹ Cloths belongyng to ye awt̃ Also I beqweth to ye seid Robert on wayne A plozgh w^{t} ij zoke of oxen my gratts potte

[1] From the Agecroft Deeds; the document is on paper and signed by the testator, and bears probate endorsement [J. P. E.].

my sylu) spones And a dosen of brode pewt dyschys A dosen of narrow pewt dyschys allso all thyngs apptenyng vnto ye hall as qwecionse wt ye hengyng of ye Hall. Itm I beqweth vnto my doght Anne Grenehalgh ij key wt ij Calves. Itm I will yt Elenore Longley And Johane Longley doghters of my son Thomas Longley if they will be rulet and Conselde by theyre broy) Robert Longley and by my executors and allso opon Condicion yt Cicile my dogh in low late wyfe to my foreseid son Thomas Langley will be gud and kynde Maystrys vnto Thomas Schols his wiff and chylderyn and vnto all oy) of hyr tenandes either of them v marks toworde theyre Mariage. Itm I will on trentall of masses be songyn for me at Pstwyche ye daye of my buriall if so mony psts Cam yed that daye to saye masse. Itm I will an oy) trentall of masses shalbe sayde for my sawle at Mäches as hastely as Can be aftr my deceasse all opon an oy) daye. Itm I will yt my pst Syr John Mosse shall saye a thrydde trentall for my sawle Anone aftr my decesse. Itm I will the seid S John Mosse shall do and saye diuine suic at Pstwyche for on yere for my Saule and all Crystyn Sawles and shall hafe for his stipende vj Markes weche vj Marks my executrs shall take vp of my pte of goods. Itm I orden my executs my broy) S Thomas Langley late pson of Pstwyche My son Willm Langley pson of Pstwyche And Aelenowre my wiff To execute pforme and ffulfill this my testamēt and last will accordyng to ye pmiss. In wittnesse wher of I the seid Robert Langley hafe sett my Seall and Sigmanuell Yeven the Daye and yere aforeseid.

[On the back is this line in the same handwriting as the will.]

"Payed vnto Jone Longley to hyr Maredgh v Marks."

[Endorsed.]

Proved at Chester 1 April 1528.

[Seal gone.]

The Will of Nicholas Jodrell, of Yeardsley, proved 1528.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 15th day of ye monyth of Maye the yere of our Lord Jhu anno M'cccccxxvii° I Nicholas Jawdrell[2] of Erdesley beying in age and hole of body & mynde dredyng the uncerteyn tyme of deth make my testament & last wyll as well of my soule & body as of my londez & goodez ffirst I wyll bequeth my Soule to almyghty god the fader ye son and the holy gost one god & persons 3, the verry holy trynyte our lady Seynt Mary & alle the Blesed Company in heyven & my body to be buried in Takkeshall Church among my ancestours & my best catall for my mortuarie & principall. Also I wyll yt myn executourz shall wt my goodez bryng me to the church ther to have dirige & masse of requiem as the man' is & to pay my dettez & incontynent after 5 massez of the blessed woundez to be seid for my soule also I wyll yt one kowe shall be geven & delyv'ed to ye servyce of our lady of Thakkeshall aforesaid, there to be prayd for.

Also I wyll yt my sonñ and heire apparaunt have alle my londez except as here after foloweth yt is to say I wyll yt M'get my wife have her dower & the 3rd part of alle my londez & goodez assigned w'out cost & trouble by my seid sonñ & heir apparaunt & such as she will call of her counseill and also I wyll yt she shall have yt hous & londez nowe in ye holdyng of William Benet in ye Towne of Buggesworth in ye countie of Derby of ye same rent as it is rented at ye makyng herof to be in ꝑte of her dower also I wyll that Otywell my sonñ have duryng his life the hous & londez of Raufe Davenport clerely to the yerely value of 20s. discharged of alle chief rents and ye ov'plus to be delyv'ed in money to John my son wt the hous and londez of Richard Nicson discharged of alle chief rent to ye yerely value of 20s. & where as ye seis hous & londes is nat yerely to ye value I wyll yt my son &

[1] From the Jodrell papers [J. P. E.].

[2] For the Jodrell pedigree, *vide East Cheshire*, Vol. ii. *p.* 538.

heir apparaunt shall make hym a sure graunt of an annuell rent as moch as wyll make it out 20s. yerely to be yerely paid unto ye seid John at Midsomer & Martilmas by even porcions by my seid sōn & heir apparant & this to be made sure upon the cost of my seid sōn & heir apparaunt for terme of ye life of the seid John.

Also I wyll y^t^ my seid sōn & heir apparaunt shall pay alle Kyngrents for alle my seid londe for t'me of lyve & lyvez of my seid wife & my yonger sonz Otywell & John & ye longest lyver and after ev'y of their decessez then, I wyll y^t^ my seid son & heir apparaunt have alle ye seid revsions & his heirez of my seid londez according to the p'port of my olde dedez evydencez & copiez as by the same more pleynly appereth also I wyll y^t^ Alice Berd have 1 heffer of 3 yere old or older & 6 shepe Also I wyll y^t^ Anne Berd her suster have 1 heffer & 4 shepe. Also I wyll y^t^ Anne my doughter have a kowe.

Also I wyll y^t^ Margaret my wife & Roger my seid sōn & heir apparaunt be myn executorz to & for the p'formans of this my last wyll, also I wyll y^t^ John Davenport be ovseer y^t^ my seid wyll be pformed. In wittenes wherof I the said Nicholas Jawdrell to this my last wyll have set my seall ye day & yer aboveseid in p'sens of

Humfrey Newton
Sr John Honsard curatt
of Tacksall beeyng true w[r]ytt'.

[1] This present will was proved, approved, and taken before us the Dean of Macclesfield the 18th day of the month of May in the year of our Lord 1528, on which day and year administration of all and singular the goods and chattels of the within written deceased was granted to the executors within named sworn in the right form. Saving the right of every one. In witness whereof to these presents we have put our Seal of Office which we use.

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[1] Translation of endorsement.

The Will and Feoffment of John Aldersey, of Spurstowe, dated 1528.[1]

"In the name of god Amen the xxiij day of the moneth of Septembr in the yere of owr lord god M°CCCCCxxviij^us and in the yere of the Reign of kyng Henry the eght aft the conquest of Englond the xx I John Aldsey of Spurstowe w^tin the Countie of Chesl hole of mynde & body thanked be o^r lord god declar this my last wyll concnyng my Measez lands & tents w^t their appurten^ancs in Spurstow Aldersey Acton & Hatton in the Countie of Chesl of Which Measez lands & tents I the seid John Aldersey by my dede indented beryng date the xxiij day of Septembr the xx yere of o^r soulreign lord kyng Henry the eght [1528] haue enffeoffed my Ryght trusty bredern And frends Robt Aldsey of Chesl Aldmann and Hugh Aldersey of Chesl mchaunt Ric Aldsey of Pykton and Ric Bridde of Teulton to haue & hold the same to theim & to their heyres to the vse of me the seid John & my heyrez & to fulfill & pforme the last will of me the seid John Aldersey like as apperith by my seid dede indented here vnto annexed which my wyll & Entent cocnyng the p'misses is as hereafl foloyth ffirst I Wyll that my seid feoffes stonde and be seaset of all my seid lands & tents w^t their appurten^ancs to the vse of me the seid John Aldersey duryng my lyff And afl my decesse I will that my seid feoffez shall suffre my wyff to dwell in my best place & howse in Spurstowe and to haue & occupye the same And all & singl^r the lands & tents pasturez medowes & leoses to the same belongyng w^t it app^rten^ancs to her most Adv^antage And pfett in name of her hole dower & Joyntr as long as she will dwell there & be sole & vnmaried And to thentent to kepe Nurrysh & fydne my Child^rn & herez toged^r & bryng them upp w^t the pfetts & issues thereof And yff she will not do soe but mary her self then I will that my seid feoffez shall ord^r And assign to my seid wyf her dower & thrydds of all my seids lands and tents w^t it app^rtn^ancs Accordyng to the Course

[1] From the Aldersey papers [J. P. E.].

& ordr of the Comyn lawe Also I will that my seid feoffes shall take aftr my decesse all & eu̅y the Rents issues & pfetts of all & singlr my seid lands & teñts in Spurstowe Aldersey Acton & Hatton excepted afore by me willet & putt in vse as is aforesaid And therewt do pay all thexpenses & Costs of my funeracon the day of my buriall And also to pay all my detts whiche I shall forten to ogh And be indetted in the tyme of my deth And afr all the p'misses fulfilled I will that my seid feoffez shall stonde & be seased And possessit not oonly of all & eu̅y the seid Measez lands and teñts wt it appurtenancs but also afr the dissesse of my seid wyff of the reu̅cion of all such lands & teñts as it shall forten my seid Wyff to haue to her dower as is aforsaid to the vse of my ryght heyres Accordȳg to ye old evidens for eu̅ And he to be restowred therunto when he cūyth to his leafull age In wittnes wherof to this my will endented I haue annexed my seid dede of feoffement endented And haue put to my Seale yeuen the day & yere Aboue written."

[1] Let all present and future know that I John Aldersey of Spurstowe, co. Chester, "gentilman," have given, granted, and by this my present charter indented confirmed to Robert Aldersey, of Chester, Alderman, Hugh Aldersey, of Chester, merchant, Richard Aldersey, of Pykton, brothers of me the aforesaid John, and Richard Bridde, of Teuerton, co. Chester, all and singular my messuages, lands, and tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, rents, reversions, services, woods and underwoods, with the appurtenances in Aldersey, Spurstow, Acton, and Hatton, co. Chester. To have and to hold all and singular the said messuages, &c., to the said Robert Aldersey, &c., their heirs and assigns for ever, to the use of me the aforesaid John and my heirs, and to fulfil and perform my last will to this my present charter indented annexed.

With clause of warranty.

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[1] The rest of the document is in Latin, of which the above is a translation.

Ralph Aldersey, chaplain, and Randle Bomvile are appointed attorneys to deliver seisin.

Given at Spurstowe aforesaid the 23rd Sept. 20 Henry viii. [1528].

[Seal of red wax not heraldic.]

Seisin delivered by the within named attorneys to the within named Hugh Aldersey and Richard Aldersey in the name of all the said feoffees at Aldersey in the presence of Thomas Horton, Thomas Dod, Wyllyam Horton, John Aldersey, Thomas Nevell, Thomas Danyell, John Horton, and John Brid.

Will of Roger Jodrell, of Yeardsley, dated 1529.

In the name of God, Amen, the 21st day of the moneyth of January the yere of our Lorde God a thouusand fyve hundrethe twenty and eght, I Roger Jawdrell of Erdesley beyng hole of wytt mynd & remembraunce dreding the uncerteyne tyme of deithe declare my last wyll & testament in man' & forme foloyng.

First I bewheithe my sawle to godd our Lady and all the Seynts in heyvyn and my body to be buried in the churche of Takkeshall nere unto suche place wher ar my fadurs bonez lien. And my best catel to go unto the parson of the sam churche in the name of my mortuarie. Also I wole that myn executours withe parcell of my goodez dispose for thelthe of my sawle as well in meyts & drynks diriges & masseze in thowse aft' my decesse as also for like doyng and obs'vance to be hade at the churche in the buryeng of my bodye with oders charitable disposision & ordre theremends as shalbe thoght by them discretion most convenyent.

Also I wole that all suche detts as I shall fortune to be oghing the tym of my departing be satisfiett of my goodez & catells in asshorte space upon my deithe as my said executors can make leyvye thereof. Also I wole that all and singuler

the contents of the last wyll & testament made by my fader bering date the 15th day of Maye the yere of or Lord Jhu anno M'cccccxxvij as towching the behalfe of Margarete my moder and of Otwell and John my brethren & of ev'y of theym shalbe fferme stable & effectuall and as moche as in me liethe by these p'sents I do ratifie & conferme the sam & ev'y parte therof for their more assurance therin. Itm I bewheithe to the Rode of Chester a heyffur. Itm unto the Churchwardens of our lady in the Chappell at Disley then to be praid for a gowne. Itm to the Reef of our Lady at Takkeshall a stokk condicionally that John Downez wole suffer the landez of or Lady [to] go forthewards unto hir use & els nott. Itm to Leonard Shalcrosse a styrke. Itm towards the makyng of Wayleybrigge a stirk. Itm to Alyce Beyrde a stirke. Itm to my suster Amye a gowne bowndyn with purpyll velvett that was my wieffs.

Itm I wole that the rest of my goodez & cattals ov' the p'missez remayning except suche p'ticuler things as I shall hereafter in writing or by mowthe afor record gyff or graunt shall holy descende and come unto thuse of Margarete my moder also I orden make and constitute the said Margarete my moder and the said Otwell my broder myn executours to & for the pformans of this my last wyll. Also I wole that Antony Shalcross and Nicholes Berde my brethren in lawe shalbe overseers & supervisours of this my p'nt last wyll to thentent they may see & cause the contents hereof fulfylled without delay or p'longyne of tyme consonant withe the tenor true entent & meianyng thereof.

In witnes of whiche things I the said Roger Jawdrell hereunto have sett my seale the day and yeare beforewritten in the p'sence of Thomas Lewyns p'son of Rothewell, Thomas Damport chapleyn, and Olyver Clerk preist curate of the said church of Takkeshall, with divers others.

[Not proved.]

The Will of William Clifton, Esquire, of Westby Hall, in Kirkham, dated 1537.[1]

In dei nõie. Amen. 5th daye of ye moneth of Jañ in ye yer of our Ld God Mcccccxxxvj I Wm Clyfton Sqyer Beynge in gude & pfyte mynde & remembrance & seyke & deseasyd in my bodye make my testament & last wyll in mañ & forme folowynge fyrst I bequeth my soule to Almyghty god & to our Ladye saynte Marye & all ye saints in hevyn & my bodye to be buryed in ye pyshe churche of Kyrkham in ye place wher my ancestors are buryed. Also it is my wyll that Syr Alisander Osbalston Knyght & Wyllam Kyrkbye Squyer & their assignes shall take into theyr hands & kepynge aft my decease all the chylder parte of goods belongynge to Elyn my doĩght with all proffetts tharof & the same to dyspose for & upon hyr mariage. And I will that ye sayd Syr Alisander & Wyllam Kyrkbye & their assignes shall have ye custodye & govnance of ye sayd Elyn aft my decease to se that she be maried accordynge to hyr degre as my speciall trist is in theyme. Also it is my mynd & wyll that all my svants dwellynge wt me shall have aft my decease evy of theyme their hole wags truly payed for their svyce done and this their halffe yer wags ov to helpe theyme to s'vyce also it is my wyll that Thomas my son & heyr shall have all mañ heyr loymez Remaynynge at my mañ place of Westbye wtowte any lett or denyenge. Also I gyffe & bequath to the sayd Thos my son vj of my best Incalffe qwyez [cows] & vj bullocks whyche wer pastured in the Pele the last somm. Also it is my wyll that the forsayd Syr Alisander & hys assignez shall have aft my decease for ye use & behoffe holly of Thos my son & heyr all my leace & bargan whyche I have of ye Abbot & c'vent of ye Vale Ryall & for ye entēt that ye sayd Syr Alisander may labur & take ye same bargayne of ye sayd Abbot & c'vent longer time for my sayd son & heir. Also I wyll that ye sayd Syr Alisander Osbalston Knyght shall kepe Wyllam my son to ye Scole & fynd hym meyte drynke & cloths unto Thomas my son & heyr come to

[1] From the *Dodsworth MSS.*, Vol. 79, *p.* 150. *Piccope MSS.*, Vol. iii., 169. [J. P. E.]

hs full age And then ye sayd Thom^a^s to do ye same tyll ye sayd Wyll^a^m be xxj yers of age. Also I wyll that Elyn my doïghꝯ shalbe fownden in lyke manꝯ meyte drynke & cloths tyll suche tyme she be maried upon the ꝑfetts & advantags of my tacke ye whyche I have of ye Abbot & c'vent of ye Vale Ryall. Also I wyll that Wyll^a^m my son shall have ye teyths w^t^in y^e^ ꝑyshe of Kyrkh^a^m vj^li^ xiij^s^ & iiij^d^ of ye nexte that falleth duryngе my tacke he payenge tharfor to Thom^a^s hys broth̄ ye old Rente accustomyed. Also I dysyr & p^a^ye ye sayd Sir Alisander to Speyke w^t^ our receyv^or^ Thurstane Tyldysleye Squyer to helpe to gytt a graunte of a certeyne pastur callyd ye Pele nowe beynge in my occupacion for ye use & behoffe of ye forsayd my son Thom^a^s. Also it is my wyll and dyssyr that ye forsayd Syr Alisander Osbalston Knyght Wyll^a^m Kyrkbye Squyer & their assignes shall [have] the custodye Rule & order of Wyll^a^m my yonger son & all hys chylds parte of guds w^t^ all profetts tyll hym belongynge & also hys añuytye & all ye same to order & dyspose to hys most proffet unto suche tyme as he shalbe of lawful age & sufficiēt dyscretion to have & gouv'e all ye same hymselffe. Also I wyll that Roger Banyster my broth̄inlawe have a fote of Kyllermer tythe, for the ꝯme of xii yers next ensewynge ye date herof payeinge ye old Rente accustomed also I wyll that Wyll^a^m Forshawe have anoth^r^ fote for ye same ꝯme payeinge the old Rente accustomyd. Also I gyff & bequeythe to ye freers of Preston a cowe & calffe to say a trētally of messez for my saule & a bullocke w^t^ a cut tayle to p^a^ye for my saule & for ye saule of Wyll^a^m Haydocke. Also I gyffe & bequeithe to ye forsayd Syr Alisander Osbalston a balde stag to be gude frende & father to my chylder as my trust is in him. Also I gyffe & bequeith to ye forsayde Wyll^a^m Kyrkbye Squyer a gray trottynge mayꝯ whyche was occupyed ye somꝯ last past. Also I gyffe & bequeith to ye stoke of our Ladye of Kyrkh^a^m iiij whyez [cows] to p^a^ye for my saule & to John Hall on quye [cow] of ye age of one yer & to John Herrison one quye [cow] of ye age of ij yers And to Syr Wyll^a^m Strynger p'st vj^s^ & viij^d^ & to Syr Thom^a^s P'met my chauntre p'st vj^s^ & viij^d^ to p^a^ye for my saule & all c'sten saulez and I dyssyr ye forsayd Syr Alisander Osbalston & my son & heyr to be gude maysters to ye sayd Syr Thom^a^s P^s^met for my sake & to se that no

man do him wronge. Morov it is my wyll that yf it fortune the sayd chauntre p'st to depte to Gods mcye afore my son & heyre shall be of age of xxj yers completyd then I wyll that ye forsayd Syr Alisander shall have full power & autorytye by this my wyll to name admytt & put in a honest & well dysposyd p'st to ye same vyce & chauntre whyche can synge to mayteynynge of Gods vyce at Kyrkh^a^m aforsayd. Also I gyffe & bequeith to ye Churche of Kyrkh^a^m toward emendynge of owr Ladyez warke & oth^r placs ther whyche neds most iij^li vj^s & viij^d and to Syr Wyll^a^m Mosseoke p'st iij^s iiij^d. Also I gyffe & bequeth to Syr Jamys Sheryngton p'st shall take & receyve for hys wags of Nicholas Shelicorne Squyer xl^s & oth^r xl^s of Henry Fysher of ye pyshe of Pulton whyche they awe me. Also it is my mynde & wyll that Isabell my wyffe schall have ye man place of Westbye to ye entent to kepe howse ther kepynge hyr wydowe & also to have ye demayne tharto belongynge to hyr awne use & proffet. Also I wyll that she shall have to hyr awne use & behoffe to helpe to kepe hyr howse w^t at Westbye all ye tythe of ye townshyppe of Westbye she payenge tharfor the yerly Rente dew & accustomyd. Also I wyll that Isabell my wyffe shall have the halffe of all man of Incomes & profetts of all ye tythe of Kyrkh^a^m pyshe when they fall tyll my son & heyr be of lawfull age. Also I wyll that the sayd Syr Alisander Osbalston ner Thom^a^s my son & heyr & Isabell my wyffe shall not hurte no tennant ner Farmer whyche I have remyttyd in my tyme & ye residew of all my guds ov & besyde my legacs after my detts payed my buriall dyschargyd I gyffe & bequeth to my sayd wyffe, Wyll^a^m my son, & Elyn my doïghter, to be distributyd emong them accordyng to ryght & gude consiens. And I ordene & [Torn out.] Isabell my wyffe Thom^a^s my son Syr Alisander Osbaldston knyght & Wyll^a^m Kyrkbye Squyer my tru & lawfull executo^r^s to see ths my p'sent testament & last wyll be truly fulfyllyd & accomplyshed in all thyngs in man & forme above specified & rehersyd as my speciall trust is in theyme. In wytnes wherof to ths my p'sent testament I ye sayd Wyll^a^m Clyfton Squyer have set to my seale ye day & ye yer above wrytten. M^d that these bene ye names of all those psons whyche wer at ye sealynge of ths my last wyll wrytten ye v^th daye of Januarii ye xxviij^th

yer of ye reigne of Kynge Henrye ye viij^th [1536-7] Syr Wyll^a^m Strynger ꝑyshe p'st Syr Thom^a^s P^s^met chauntre p'st Syr Jamys Sheryngton hs chapleyne Roger Banyster Wyll^a^m Forshawe Hewghe Lathū John Herrison Hewghe Blevyn John Bonye John Hall &c. ꝑ me Nicholaū Thornburghe. ꝑ me Thoma P'met p^s^st.

The Will of Piers Legh, of Bradley, dated 1539.[1]

Thys Indenture comprehendyng and mencoñyng the last will off me Peres Legh of Bradley in the County of Lanc̃ Esquier soñ and heyr of Peres Legh Knygh̃ and preist made the Syxte day of Septemb̃ in the xxxj^th^ yeř of the Reigne of kyng Henř the Eght [1539] in yerthe vndur cryste supreme hedde of the Churche in englande Concernynge the disposiĉion of my Mano^r^ off Dalton in the County byforsaid And of all my Mesuags l^a^unds teñts Rents and s'uics with thar appurten^a^ncs in Hutton or elswhere belongyng to the said Mano^r^ Aswell as of those l^a^unds and teñts of myñ lyeng in Ouerburton and Aykbanke in the County of Westm̃l^a^unde Wittenesythe that Wheyas the said Sr Peres in hys lyeff off Truste Enfeoffed John Laurence Esquier Edward Redmayn esquier John Irel^a^unde esquier Rauff Lēgh of Stockewell esquier Wiłłm Wall Clerke Rauff Orrell and Rauff Ayscuo of and in the said Mano^r^ of Dalton and in the saids Mesuags l^a^unds teñts & other the syngler p'myss̃ As Appearithe by hys Dede theroff Bearyng date the xij^th^ day of Marche in the xj^th^ yeř of the Reigñ of kynge henř the vij^t^ [1496] to the Entent that suche Will & Wills as he therupon afturwards schuld make and declař myght and schuld subst^a^ñcially be done & executed The Wheche Mano^r^ mesuags l^a^unds & teñts with other thair appurten^a^ncs for the moř Assur^a^unce theroff Cristofur Dacre knyght Adam Hulton esquier Henř ffaryngton then esquier & nowe knyght Thomas Lewyns Clerke and Wiłłm Plumptre Clerke now lievyng togethere With John Astoñ

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[1] From the Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 4 [J. P. E.].

knyght Edmūde Trafforde knyght Willm Chetwyñ esquier Richard Aston esquier Henr̃ Redmayñ esquier Laurence Dutton esquier Thomas Kynsley esquier Willm Handforth esquier John Whytyngton esquier Symond Byrom Clerke Reynold Lewyns Clerke Humfride Newton gent̃ Willm Colwyche gent̃ Rauff Ascuo gent̃ and Willm Sergeant gent̃ deceased lately Amangest other thyngs by Wrytt of entre opon disseason in the Post at the sessyons Holden at Lanc̃ the Monday next aftur the ffeest of thassumption of owr̃ ladye the virgyn the xxiij^th^ yer̃ of the Reigñ of kyng Henr̃ the vij^t^ [1508] byfor̃ the Justyces of Assyse of owr̃ lorde the kynge ther Agaynest the said Sr Peres Lēgh knyght Recouered as by the Recorde therof mor̃ playnly wole Apper̃ And theropon the sam̃ Sr Peres made and declared his Will & Willes theroff as appearithe by his Writyng vndur hys Seall & signe manuel made and subscribed bearyng date the ffirst day of decemb^r^ in the xiiij^th^ yere of the Reigne of kyng Henry the Eght [1522] The contents Whearoff therein done Apper̃ by Wheche Will Amangs other thyngs it is menconed & specified that Immediatly aftur thuses & t'mes theroff declared executed & determyned the saids ffeoffs & Recouers or others that shall then haue eny estate or interest therin shall stande & be possessed theroff & pmytt the sam̃ and euery pcell theroff to descende Remayn growe & come to the right heires of the said Sr Peres Whose son and right heir̃ I the said Peres Legh esquier now st^a^unde The Wheche thynge & will w^t^ the c'cumstaunce of all & syngler the pmyss̃ amangs other thyngs is so founde psented & brought in by Inqwesition hade at Wygan the xxviij^th^ day of Aprill in the xx^th^ yer̃ of the Reign of kyng Henry theght [1528] Affore James Worseley knyght Escaeto^r^ of o^r^ lorde the kyng in the said County of Lanc̃ vpon & Aftur the deith of the said Sr Peres by vertue of a Writt of Diem clausit extremũ to hym theranends directyd as therby mor̃ playnly the mat doith & may Apper̃ Wheche Will of the said Sr Peres Legh & all & syngler suche causes & entents as the said Sr Peres in the sam̃ hys said Will Wilned to be done & executyd be now Accomplished pformed & playnly discharged Wherupon I the said Peres Legh esquier by my Dedes Indented and lyule of season therupon as in my

saids dedes playnly Appereth haue yeuen gr^{a}unted & confermed to Sr Marmaduke Tunstall knyght Andrew Barton Richard Holland esquiers And Wiłłm Hatche Chaplen All & syngler my Mesuags l^{a}unds teñts and hereditaments w^{t} thapp^{r}ten^{a}ncs in Dalton and Hutton in the County of Lanc̃ to thentent that thay therwith shalle Accomplyshe ꝑforme & fullfill this my Will & Willes theroff made or to be made That is to Wete ffyrst I the said Peres Legh Will that the said Sr Marmaduke Tunstall k^{g} and the other my saids Executours aftur the decesse of me the said Peres Legh shall yerly take & ꝑceyue all thyssuez Reuenuys & ꝑfetts of the said Mañ of Dalton & other the syngler ꝑmyssz w^{t} thair App^{r}ten^{a}nces to thentent that thay my saids Executo^{r}s ther w^{t} may content pay & discharge all & syngler suche detts as as [*sic*] I the said Peres Lēgh am oghyng to eny ꝑson or ꝑsons the tyme of my decesse all wheche detts be writen & menc̃oned in a scedule to this my last Will Annexed Also I the said Peres Legh will that the said Marmaduke & all other my executors schall yerely take & ꝑceyue all the saids Rents reuenuys & ꝑfetts of the said Mañ of Dalton Hutton & thair App^{r}ten^{a}ncs as is Assigned menc̃oned & declared in sundry deds of gyffte to thaym by me the said Peres Lēgh made & gr^{a}unted of my said Mañ of Dalton & others the ꝑmyssz to thentent that thay w^{t} the sam̃ ꝑfetts as is Abouesaid schall discharge content & pay all suche sum̃es of money as I the said Peres Legh will shall be content & payd to & for the Mariagez of my doghturs That is to Wete for the Mariage of my doghtur Elsabeth Legh CC marks and for the Mariage of Marye Legh my dogh^{t}^{r} CC marks And in lykewise for the Mariage of my dogh^{t}^{r} Alice CC Marks condic̃onally that the saids Elsabt̃ Marye & Alice my saids doghturs be Mareyd by thadvice of my saids executo^{r}s and other my frends to such ꝑsons and placs as by the said my executo^{r}s & frends shalbe thoght cōuenyent And if it Ch^{a}unce eny of the saids my dogh^{t}^{r}s of thair Awne syngler mynde to do contr^{a}ye to this my Will in that behalfe of takyng a husbande then I will that my saids executo^{r}s shall deducte the said sum̃e or sum̃es to eny of my said dogh^{t}^{r} or doghturs so doyng as by thair discretion thay shall thynke conueniēt Accordyng to the havynge of the

man that thay or eny of thaym shall in this case of thair one syngler mynde take to husband contr^a^ye to the ꝑport of this my will. Item I will that my saids executo^r^s with the saids Issuez & ꝑuffetts shall cause suche honest p^r^ste as I in my lieve shall name & assigne to celebte w^t^ in my Chapell at Wynwik for thelthe of my sawle and of those that I am most boundon to pray for duryng the space of seyven yers next aftur my decease and to have stipende therfoꝝ yerely ffyeve pounds And if I do not assigne eny ꝑste therunto in my lieve Then it is my Will that the saꝫ ꝑste shalbe deputed & assigned therunto by myñ Executo^r^s. Item I will that eꝫy my said Executo^r^s shalhaue for thaiꝝ paynes & labur in executyng all & eꝫy my Wills oꝫ & besyds thaiꝝ resonable costs made concnyng the execution of my Wills seuerally ffyeve Marks to be taken of thissuez & ꝑuffetts of the saids Mano^r^ meſez l^a^unds & teñts w^t^ thair app^r^ten^a^ncs and the Moyte therof to be had & levyed to thair Awne vse the first yer next aftur my decease & the Reste & remaynent of the saꝫ to be taken at suche tyme as this my p'sent Will & all others my Wills beñ cluerly Accomplisshed and done Item I the saꝫ Peres Legh esquier will that Immediatly aftur the syngler forsaids vses & ꝑmes be fully levyed doñ ꝑformed & executeyd W^t^owt frawde gyle or collusyon That then and Immediatly afturwards all sutche ꝑsons havyng eny estate in the said Mano^r^ of Dalton & others the ꝑmyssz and thair heirs shall st^a^unde & be seased of and in the said Mano^r^ of Dalton and in all and eꝫy others the saids seꝫal Mesuags l^a^unds & teñts w^t^ thair app^r^ten^a^ncs to thuse of my Right heyres ffor eꝫ In Witnesse Whearoff I the saꝫ Perys Legh Squier vnto this my ꝑsent Will have sett my Seall and Sygnemanuell the day and yere aboue Writen.

[Signed] PERES LEGHE.
Esquyer.

[Large red seal, illegible.]

The Will of John Booth,[1] Doctor of Divinity, Archdeacon of Hereford, dated 1542.

[In the nam]e of god amen the viijth daye off august in the yere off o^{r} lord god a M^{d}ccccc[xlij] I John Bothe doctor off Devynitie and archdeacon off Herford off hoole mynde etc. doo make mye testament and last will in mañ and forme foloinge I bequeth my sowle to almightie god and to o^{r} blessed ladie and ꝯgen Synt [Mari]e, and to all the holye companye off heven and mye bodye to be buryed in . . . Itm. I beq: one pece off arrasse off the storie off Thadeus contaynyng [in length] v yards and one quarꝯ and in breed iiij yards one quarꝯ and one neyle [to Ag]nes Bothe being mye heyre and itt to succede to the heyres off hyr bodye [lawfu]lly begotton as longe as itt maye indure. Itm I geve to the sayd Agnes . . . . . off tawne saten. Itm to the sayd Agnes one standyng cuppe ꝑcell . . . . . w^{t} a Wice [?] and a couꝯ [cover] having a sokyn [?] upon and one fyne carpet Itm . . . . . eve to Frances Both and Barbara his wiff one flanders chiste off . . . . . lenthe and iij quarters breed. Itm I gyve to Mꝯget Bothe my . . . . . est wich I haue in the mañ place off Saghton accordinge . . . . . he same w^{t} xvj^{t} oxen for ij^{t} tewmes x^{t} mylke kye . . . . . eres ij heffers off ij yeres v sterks off one yere and iiij^{t} . . . . . lj ewes, lj lābes ij^{t} horses wich is named lewes . . . . . yff and beq: to Roꝯ Bothe x^{li} for one anuitie to be . . . . duryng his liff off and upon mye lands lyeng in Molyng[ton] . . . cording to the teno^{r} and effecte of one dede of

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[1] The testator, who was the second son of Roger Booth, of Mollington, co. Chester, Esquire, succeeded to the Mollington estates on the death of his elder brother, Thomas Booth, Esquire, in 1528, when he is described as being thirty-three years of age. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and is said to have been collated to the archdeaconry of Hereford in 1522. He died on the Saturday next before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15], 34 Henry VIII., 1542, and his niece, Agnes Booth, daughter of his brother, Charles Booth, was found to be his heir and then aged nine years. (Ormerod's *Cheshire*, new edition, *p.* 380.) This copy is from the *Piccope MSS.*, Vol. 8, *p.* 156. [J. P. E.]

anuitie unto . . . . . my chaplens xx^{s} a pece. Itm to ix of my household . . . . . wages. Itm I giff to the College of Brasennose in . . . . . my boks. Itm I giff to M]gett one cheste in Saghton . . . . . pe ware as dothe appere bie a bill in the same . . . . . shall haue pte therof. Itm I orden constitute my [trus]tie and welbeloued Wiłłm Eccleston and Rog Bothe [my true and law]full executors to dispose my goods to the helth of [soul These] being Wytnes m Doctor Wolsott m Wiłłm Standley . . . . . Jac' Bibbe James Cower w^{t} others. Yeven the day [and yer]e written.

Witness off the same

George Bell } examined afore m Chancelor att
Thomas longton } Chester iij^{t} octobris a' dñ 1542do.

The Will of Richard Rowe, of Macclesfield, dated 1542.[1]

IN THE NAME OF GOD amen the seconde daye of October In the yere of our lord god M^{lmo}ccccc^{o}xlij^{o} and in the yere of our sou'ayn lord King Henry the eight the xxxiiij^{li} I Ric Rawe[2] of Macclesfeld goyng on warrefare make my testament & last wylle in man' of forme folowyng that is to wytte ffyrst I comend my Saule to allmyghty God the ffather the Sonne & the holy gost, to the blessed virgyn mary mother of Jesu Crist my Redemer & Saveour and to all the Saynts in heaven, And my body to be buried where it pleaseth god to dispose of it, And I bequeth my principals according to the Kings acts Item I bequeth unto my iiij Sonnes Edmunde Williã Raphe John and to Elyzabeth my doughter to every of them five markes wch I woll that my Sonne and heir shall paye unto them, And if he denye so to doe then my wylle is that my Executors shall take and receyve yerely the Rents of these p'cells of ground folowyng

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[1] From the Macclesfield Grammar School papers [J. P. E.].

[2] For a pedigree of the Rowe family, see *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 282.

that is to saye the Rents of the Pyrlewall, of the Essynecrofts of the litle Bullfeild with the mosse & croft Joyneing unto the same, unto such tyme as they shall receyve the whole Sume of xxv^{ti} marks for the use and profett of my said v children as aboue said ITEM I BEQUETH unto Alice my bastard doughter j heffer and ij shepe ITEM I WOLL AND CHARGE myne heire that he shall yerely pay & gyffe out of Haynes crofts xvj^{d} to make anniversarie of my Grandffather Richard Rawe which died the ixth daye of November to pray for his Saule and other as it woll apere by a ffeoffement for the same made to the maior of Macclesfeld to the Curat of the same Church and to other beyrying date Anño Henrici septimi undecimo. ITEM I WOLL that my wyfe shall haue a waye throgh out the litle Bullffeild to cary & recarye through the same Corne hey & mucke to the Great Bullffeild without disturbance of my heir, AND ALSOE I WOLL that my said wyfe shall haue tymber of the Roughheye such as shalbe necessarie for her to buyld withall upon such ground as she hath in her dowry and Joynture at the delyverance of myne heire. The residue of all my goodes and Catalles my detts payd if ther be any and my bequests fulfylled I gyffe and bequeth unto my wife Werebur and to my three daughters Margrett Issabell and Alice, that is to say Corne Cattell Beddyng Brasse pewter . . [Illegible in original.] . And of this my last wylle & testament I orden and make my Executors my wyfe Werebur and Edmunde my Sonne, And my kynsman Thomas Grene of the Watier to be overseer of this my last wylle and testament And for such labor & busynes as the said Thomas shall for the overseeing of the same to be fullfylled & done I woll that my wyfe and children shall susteyn & beyre & giffe unto him for his costes These beying wytnesses Thomas Marler the elder & Raphe Helegh Aldermen John Heginnbothom Geffrey Joneson and other And furthermore to this my last will & testament I the said Ric Rawe haue sett my Seale.

[Original on paper. Mounted on paper for its better preservation.]

The Will of Roger Jodrell, of Yeardsley, dated 1547.[1]

In the name of God, Amen. The fyrst daye of February in the yere of our lorde god a thousand fyve hundrethe fortie and vii and also in the second yere of the reigne of o^r^ most dread sov'aigne lorde Edward the syxte by the grace of God of England ffraunce and Ireland Kyng deffendor of the faithe and in yerthe next and immediatlye under god of the churche of England and also of Ireland supreme heade. I[2] Roger Jodrell of Yerdysley in the countie of Chester gentylman sycke in body and p'fyte in remembrance do ordeyne and make this p'sent testament therein conteyned my last will in manor and forme foloeing, ffyrst I geve and beqwethe my saule unto almightie god to his mother Marye the virgyn w^t^ all the holie companye of heaven and my bodie to be buryed w^t^in the p'yshe churche of Saynt Leonard att Tackessall.

Itm̃ I gyffe and beqwethe to every one of my servants one lambe. Itm̃ I gyffe and beqwethe to my bastard sonne George Jodrell one heffer stryke of a yere olde. Itm̃ I gyffe unto Willm Woodroffe a lambe also further all the residue and remaynder of my goods, my detts payde, my funerall costs made and my beqwests discharged of the hole I gyffe and beqwethe unto Ellyn my wyffe and unto my chyldren to be devided amungst theym according to the custome of the contrey, that is to wytte the hole to be devided in iij parties whereof one p'te to Ellyn my saied wiffe and ij parts to my chyldren to be devided equallye amungist theym.

Also I ordeyne constitute and make the affore said Ellyn my wyffe Richard Blackewall and Otewell Jodrell my brother my true and lawfull executors to see that this my p'sent tastament and last wyll be accomplesshed and fulfylled in all causes according to the entent and true meanyng of the same as my faithfull and especyall trust is in theym.

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[1] From the Jodrell papers.

[2] Eldest son of Nicholas Jodrell, of Yeardsley, whose will is printed on page 64. For a pedigree of the family, see *East Cheshire*, Vol. ii., *p.* 538.

Thes beyng wittenes John Potte of the Dounge yeoman, John More of Wayley smithe, Nycholas ffedeler preist and ꝑson at Tackessall w^{t} others.

Thes byn the detts and dutyes wiche I do oghe.

In primis to Otewell Jodrell my brother ...	6^{li}	11^{s}	10^{d}
Itm̃ to John Jodrell my brother	5 marks		
Itm̃ to Edmond Knolles	4 marks		
Itm̃ to John Potte of the Dounge	0	20^{s}	0
Itm̃ to my sister in lawe Elyzabethe Knuttysforde	0	20^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Alexander Benett	10^{li}	17^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Willm Benett	3^{li}	2^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Hamnet Stockley	0	50^{s}	8^{d}
Itm̃ to John More	0	40^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Edward Downes	0	27^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Raffe Hurst	0	3^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Margaret Corker	0	13^{s}	8^{d}
Itm̃ to Henrye Claye	0	40^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Willm Broke	0	30^{s}	8^{d}
Itm̃ to Wyllm Corker	0	25^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Otewell Jodrell my brother	0	55^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Otewell Kyrke	0	18^{s}	0
Itm̃ to my sister Emme	0	10^{s}	0
Itm̃ to John Pownall	0	23^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Laurence Pownall	0	6^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Agnes Benett	0	6^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Alis Benett	0	11^{s}	0
Itm̃ to John Stafford	0	10^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Christopher Clayton	0	4^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Richard Mellor	0	13^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Emme Potte	0	0	20^{d}
Itm̃ to John Sharte	0	5^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Henrye Claye	0	2^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Willm Corker	0	3^{s}	2^{d}
Itm̃ to Syr James Broke	0	8^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Margerye Hadfeld	0	7^{s}	4^{d}
Itm̃ to Chrystofer Benet of Kedylsome ...	0	22^{s}	0
Itm̃ to Jams Waryngton	0	4^{s}	0

Itm̃ to Thomas Benett	...	...	...	o	7^s o
Itm̃ ux̃ James Sharte	...	...	...	o	o 20^d

Thes ben the detts y^t byn owyng unto me.

Inprimis Edward Woullowe ...	...	...	o	6^s	1^d
Itm̃ the wiffe of Raffe Hyll ...	...	...	o	2^s	o

This present will was proved before us George Wymesleyen [Wylmesleye] Bachelor of Laws, Vicar in spiritualities to the most reverend Father in Christ Lord John by divine permission Bishop of Chester by the authority of the most illustrious Prince in Christ and our Lord Edward by the grace of God, King of England, &c. [No date.]

The Will of Ellin Jodrell, of Yeardsley, Widow, dated 1548.[1]

In dei noĩe Amen, the 18th April 1548, I Elyn Jowdrell,[2] wedowe, late wief of Roger Jowdrell of Yourdisley, decessed. First I bequeth my soule to Almyghty god, besechyng our blessed lady, Seynt Mary the Vyrgyn and alle ye holy company of heyven to pray for me. And my body to be buried in the pissh Church of Tackesall. Also after y^t my body be buryed, my funerall expences discharged, my detts and the detts of my said late husband contented and paid, the ressidue of all and syngler my goodes movable and unmovable, I gifue and bequeth to my son Otiwell, and to my daughters Mary, Grace, Ame, Elyn, Barbara, and Martha, to be equally and indeferently divided amongst theym.

Also I gifue and grant to my seid son Otiwell for the term of his lif naturall one messuage and alle lands &c. to the same messuage belongyng in Twemlowe co. Chester, now in the tenure of Roger Cadman, And also thre closes or pastures, one called the great Seynlowes, and the other the Bromefild

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[1] From the Jodrell papers.
[2] See preceding will.

in Twemlowe aforesaid, nowe in the holding of my sister Elizabeth Knottesford, and the third called the little Seynlowes in Twemlowe aforesaid, now in the tenure of Hawys Taillior wedowe, And one ꝑcell of ground in Twemlowe aforesaid, nowe in the tenure of Wiłłm Kenworthey, to have, hold &c. alle the seid messuage, lands &c. to the said Otiwell and his assignes duryng his lif naturall, paying yerely therfor to ye Kyngs Magestie, seyven shillyngs, six penyes, as hath been used to be paid out of such lands &c. which I haue in Twemlowe aforeseid. Alle which messuage, lands &c. I will shall be as sure and firme in ye lawe to the said Otiwell for his life naturall, as by counseill lerned in ye lawe can be devised.

Also all other messuages, lands &c. which I haue in Twemlowe and Knottesford in ye Countie of Chester aforeseid, I gifue and bequeith to my seid daughters Mary, Grace, Ame, Elyn, Barbara, and Martha, to hold the same for the term of eightene yers next after my decesse. Also I will that myn executors shall receyve the issues of alle the seid messuages, lands &c. during the seid eightene yers aboue specified, to the behove and ꝑfett of my daughters aforeseid, y^t^ is to wit, to pay to every one of theym, twenty merkes apece, towards their mariages or other ꝑferments, at such times and after such manner as myn executors shall thynk most profitable for theym, so y^t^ every of my seid daughters shall haue fully twenty merks, or else so negh thereto as the said issues, rents &c. will extend, so that the reasonable costes of myn executors shall be at all tymes allowed of the issues of the prymysses, accordyng to the true intent and meanyng of this my last will.

Also I ordeyn and admytt Elizabeth Knottesford, my sister, Otiwell Jowdrell my brother in lawe, John Eyton, John Pot the elder of the Dunge, and Sr Jamys Broke, Chapleyn, to be my lawfull executors, truly to execute this my last will to be performed as they shall aunswer afor Almyghty god in y^t^ behalf. Also I will y^t^ this my testament and last will above expressed shall stand and be good, firme and stable. Alle oyer Wills afor this tyme made by me the seid Elyn to the contrary in eny wise notwithstanding.

These beyng Wittenes John Downes of the Bothoms, Wiłłm Bennet, John More, John Sherle, Laurence Pownell,

John Pott the younger, and Rauff Taillior, and mony other, the day and year abovesaid.

The detts of me Elyn Jowdrell, wedowe, which I do ough as herafter folwyth.

ffirst to my brother in lawe Antony Shalcrosse	xl^{s}
It to Mergaret Jowdrell doughter to my late husbond for a full satisfaccion and payment of and for her childs pte of her father[s] goodes	iiij^{li}
It to John Pot the elder of the Dunge	vj^{s} viij^{d}

[Latin]

Proved by all the Executors before the Dean of Macclesfield 25 April 3 Edward vi [1549].

[Signed] WILLIAM LEIGH, dean of Macclesfeld.

The Will of Thomas Trafford, of Bridge Trafford, dated 1548.[1]

"In dei Noïe amen The xxvjth of September the yere of o^{r} Lorde god A thousande fyue hundred forty And Eyghte & ynn the yere of the raigne of o^{r} most Dred soveraigne Lord Lord Edwarde the sixte by the grace of god of England ffrance & Ireland kinge Defendor of the ffaithe & yn Erthe immediate vnder Christe of the Churche of England & also of Ireland supreme heade the seconde I Thomas Trogheforde of Briggetroghforde in the County of Chester gentilman Sonne and heyre of Christofor Trogheford deceased beinge hole of body & of sane memory but fearinge the hower of deathe and yates therof wch is to euery person certaine & the hower & tyme therof vncertayne make my laste will & Testamente

[1] From a copy contemporaneous with original will, among the Barnston Deeds, Nov. 1890 [J. P. E.].

cõcerning not only all my mess^{es} lands tenements rents reversions & servises whersoeu̅ the[y] lye or be but also of all my goodds chatteles taks & fermes as herafter ensuethe. ffyrste I bequeath my sole vnto Almighty god & to o^{r} Lady Seynte Marye his blessed mother the virgin & to Al the blessed company in heaven and my body to be buryed at Plemstowe churche amongste others my Ancestors ther or else where yt shall fortune me to dye And I will that my buryall be ordered after & accordinge to the discrecsiõ of myne executors hervnder named And furder I will grante & bequeath as well all & every my cheef howse of Briggetroghford wth all howses to the same belonginge And also all the lands medowes lesowes pastures woods & Cõmons in Briggetroghforde Chester Hale & Halewood in the Countys off Chester of the Citty of Chester & of Lancaster & elsewhere wthin the Realme of England but also all the Reversion of all suche meses lands & tenements wth ther appurtenances wch Ellen Troghforde my mother nowe hathe in Dower or Joynture when yt shall happen or fortune to come after her Decease vnto my welbeloved & trusty wyf Jane one of the dawghters of William Rodon of Burton wthin the lordship of Bromffeeld wthin the County of Denbighe To haue and houlde the same vnto the sayd Jane & she to receaue & take yerly the rents & proffits therof for terme of her lyfe to pay & contente my debts wth the same, and also to pay and satisfy my fower sisters towards ther seuerall mariages twenty pounds apeese wch was bequethed theame seuerally by my sayd ffathers laste will & testamente. And after the sayd debts and mariage money payde as is beforesayd & after her decease then the aforesayd lands and tenements Rents & reuersions & servises holly to remayne to such yssue as my sayd wyff shall haue of her body by me lawfully begoten or for to be begoten And the remaynder to the heyres of that yssue lawfully begotten payinge vnto my fower sisters or to ther Children if ther be any lyvinge the some of fforty pounds over and besyds the porc̃ós lefte by my ffather. And yn defaute of suche yssue to remayne to my syster Elsabett & her heyres. And yf it happen the sayd meses lands and tenements and other the premises wth thear appurtenances to come and remayne vnto

the sayd Elsabett I will that the sayd Elsabett shall pay vnto euery one of my sayd sisters if they be then alyue or to there Children fowerscore pounds over & besyde the porcion lefte theame by my ffather wch is to euery of theme wth my said ffathers bequest & myne fforty pounds a peese And after the same payde then to remayne to the heyres of the body of the sayd Elsabett lawfully begotten And they to pay the same if any be vnpayde And yn defaute of suche her heyres to remayne to Margery an other of my Systers She payinge vnto the rest of my sayde sisters then lyvinge or to their Children as muche as shalbe behynde vnto theme and euery of theme vnpayd And to the heyres of the body of the sayd Margery lawfully begotten, And if it happen the sayd Margery to dye w^th^oute yssue of her body lawfully begotten then to remayne to Margrett & she to pay as muche as shalbe behynde & vnpayde of the aforesayd bequest of my ffathers and myne & to the heyres of the body of the sayd Margrett lawfully begotten And if it happen the sayd Margrett to dye w^th^oute yssue of her body lawfully begotten, then I will the sayd meses lands & tenements wth the appurtenances shall holy remayne vnto my Sister Mary & to the heyres of her body lawfully begotten she lykwyse payinge all suche money as shall fortune to be behynde and vnpayde, as is before appoynted. And ynn defaute of suche her yssue to remayne to my righte heyres for ever And also I will that wheras Christofor Knolls hathe of the gifte of my sayd ffather A tenemente & Lands thervnto belonginge in Briggetroghford aforesayd for terme of his lyf I will that after the decease of the sayd Knolls and after my decease the sayd tenemente and lands & the reuersion therof shall remayne vnto Vter . [Blank.] . my servante And he for his faithefull servise to me done to haue the same tenemente & lands thervnto belonginge wth ther appurtenances duringe his lyf naturall w^th^oute paymente of any rente or other thinge for the same. And I bequeathe & giue vnto my sayd welbeloved wyf to pay other my debts heere not mencõed And after my sayd debts and expences of my funeratione done then the resydue of my sayd gooddes and Chattells I giue holy to my sayde wyf and for the performance of this my laste will and testamente I constitute & make my sayd wyf Jane my sole executrixe In wittnesse wherof I

haue put to my sygne and seale in presense of the wittnesses whose names be indorsed.

"These were presente att the sealinge of this will John Done Knighte Rondull Spurstowe esquier Hamlett Penketman yoman Hue Damporte sone & aĩ of parente [apparent] to John Damporte gentillman In wittnesse herof John Done knighte & Randull Spurstow esquier haue subscribed hore names."

The Will of David ap Gruffith ap Llewellen, of Gwesany, dated 1548.

8 Dec. 1548. The last will and testament of DAVID AP GRUFFITH AP LLEWELLEN OF GWESANY,[1] of the lordship of Molesdale, co. Flint, Containing the following bequests;—"Item. I do bequethe all my burialles sheattes [*sic*] and knelinge places in the sayde churche of Molde amongste my saide three sonns abouesseid for euermore, but only excepted that Margaret verch Jevan ap Res haithe the hieste seate of one of the benchese next to the alter of the southe syde of the churche:—Item, I do bequeath to Janet of Llỹn two yardes and a half of Yorkshier clothe to make her a cloke one hooge [*sic*] with a reade hedde . . . coverled and two sheetis with a pillowe. Item iiij cheeses, Item one heffer with a wite face, Item a hoope of every manner of corne beyng in the bearne:—Item, I do bequeath to Margaret verch Robert one sheppe:—Item, to the church-worke iij^{s} iiij^{d} at the sight and wylle of myne executours and ouerseers:—Item. I do bequeath vnto my goostly father Sir Davyd two shalynges."

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[1] Historical MSS. Commission, Sixth Report, *p.* 422, MSS. of P. B. Davies Cooke, Esq. [J. P. E.].

Will of Richard Legh, of Swinehead, co. Chester, gent., dated 1551.

In the name of God, Amen, the 1st Sept. 5 Edward vi [1551]. I Richard Leigh of Swinhead co. Chester, gent., sick in body and whole in mind. I bequeath my body to be buried in the Church of Rotherston before the Chancel [gate] there. I give and bequeath to Gawen Leigh my son, all that messuage with the appurtenances, lying in the Mosse howses within the dominion of High Leigh, and all those lands &c. thereto belonging, lately in the occupation of William Smith, of the yearly rent of 16s. 11d. to hold to the said Gawen and his assigns for his life, paying therefore yearly to Johan Leighe mother of me the said Richard, 7s. 3d. during her life. Provided always that it shall be lawful for the said Johan to occupy and enjoy the crofts commonly called the Marled Heye and Brode Heye, parcel of the premises, during her life.

I give and bequeath to Anthony Leighe my son the moiety of all that messuage with the appurtenances, lying in Comburbage, and the moiety of the lands &c. thereto belonging, now or late in the occupation of Thomas Berrowis, of the yearly rent of 23s. 6d., to hold to the said Anthony and his assigns during his life.

I give and bequeath to Hamnet Leigh my youngest son all that pasture with the appurtenances commonly called the Leefeild, lying in Swinhead, now or late in the occupation of Richard Robartson, and of me the said Richard Leigh, of the old rent of 13s. 4d., to hold to the said Hamnet and his assigns during his life, paying therefore yearly to Gawen Leigh my brother, and Margaret wife of the said Gawen, 13s. 4d. during their lives, and the survivor of them.

Also my will and mind is that Johan my wife shall find and give meat, drink, clothes, and lodging to my said three sons Gawen, Anthony, and Hamnet, and shall occupy and enjoy all the said premises which I have bequeathed to my said three sons until my said sons shall come to the age of 21 years. Provided also that if it happen my said wife to take her a husband and to be married, that then she shall not claim nor occupy anything which I have bequeathed to my

said three sons. I bequeath to Johan my bastard daughter, an in-calf heifer, which I will that my wife shall deliver to her within two years next after the date hereof.

Also "after that my bodie shall be brought to Christian buriall" and my funeral expences and legacies discharged, then I will that all my goods shall be equally divided into three parts, whereof I bequeath one part to my said wife. Also I bequeath to my said wife the other two parts to the use of my two daughters Margerie and Katherine. Also if it shall happen anything to be in this my last will, whereby any doubt or controversy might arise, then my executors and overseer shall expound and interpret all such doubt according to my true meaning.

And of this my last will I constitute Gawen Leigh my son, and Margerie and Katherine Leigh, my daughters, my executors, and Sir John Done, knight, my overseer.

These being witnesses, Richard Venables, Gawen Leigh gent., Johan Leigh mother of me the said Richard, Marie Venables sister of me the said Richard, Hamnet Leigh, and William Wilkinson.

The Will of John Davye, of Mold, dated 1558.

16 May, 1558. The last will and testament of John Davye[1] [of Mold, co. Flint], who bequeaths his soul to "Almightie God and to oure blessed ladye Saynte Mary and to all the celestiall company of heaven," and directs that his body shall be buried in "the mynster of Chester." Containing the following bequests,—"vnto the churche whiche is to the buylding of the same xx^{s} vnto the churche of Sainte Michaelles vj^{s} viij^{d}, and to Saincte Brides vj^{s} viij^{d}, and to Saincte Martyns vj^{s} viij^{d}, and to Saincte Johns withowte Norgate vj^{s} viij^{d}." The testator continues, "also I bequeith vnto my buryall, In primis to Sir Thomas Fynlowe v^{s} to

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[1] Historical MSS. Commission, 6th Report, MSS. of P. B. Davies Cooke, Esq., *p.* 422 [J. P. E.].

pray for my sowle, Further I leve and bequeithe a cowpell of oxson that I boughte the laste yere to the building of Moulde Churche where I dwell; Also I bequieth a bullocke that I boughte of the Royde vnto the mendynge of the hye waie betwixte my howse and the Molld. . . . Also I bequieth vnto my brother in lawe John ap Edwarde a wood-knyfe and my best cote garded with veluet sad color; Also to my uncle William ap Edward a gowne which is furred with lame [? lamb] throughowte and fared [*sic*] with blacke conye; . . . . Also I bequieth vnto my father-in-lawe Thomas Salysbury of the Flynte a jerken of salten furred throughowte with lambe and fared [*sic*] with sables; Item, another jerken of veluet lyned with taffeta embroidered which I bequeith vnto my cousyn John Pavye constable of Harden:—Item, also I bequeith vnto my brother Roberte iii yerdes of crymsen satten with all the rest of my garmentes to bestowe them at his discretion." The testator also bequeaths his "cheyne weying vij ownces and a half" to his son Robert, who, however, is not to have possession of the ornament until he shall have "come to his age." The testator's brother Robert, wife Jane, and son Robert are appointed full executors of the will: *i.e.* without an overseer to audit and pass their accounts.

The Will of Joan Legh, of Swinehead, Widow, dated 1558.

In the name of God, Amen, the 20th August 1558. I Johan Leigh, widow, being of health and of perfect memory. My body to be buried "wthin the pishe Church of Rosturne nere vnto the chauncell Doore there."

I give and bequeath to my cousen[1] Richard Venables 20s. I give to my cousen[1] Thomas Venables brother of the said Richard, 20s. I bequeath to Elizabeth Venables and Ellyn Venables, sisters to the said Richard Venables, 20s. apiece. I

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[1] Grandchild [J. P. E.].

give and bequeath to my cousen Gawen Leigh, 20s. To Anthony Leigh and Hamlet Leigh, brethren to the said Gawen, 20s. apiece. To Margaret Leigh sister of the said Gawen 20s. To Jane Leigh bastard daughter of my son Richard Leigh, 6s. 8d. if she be living at the time of my decease, but if dead, then the said legacy shall be given to the said Hamlet Leigh. To William Leigh son of Gawen Leigh my son, a cow. To Joane Leigh sister of the said William a pyed calf, and the feather bed I am accustomed to lie in, with all the clothes to the same belonging. To my daughter in law Margaret Leigh, all my waines, carts, whiles, ploughs, harrows, and ladders, and all other things to the same belonging. To my cousen Anne Crane my saddle and bridle.

All the residue of my goods &c. I bequeath to my cousens Thomas Leigh, William Leigh, John Leigh, Anne Crane, Elizabeth Norris, Bridget Leigh, Marie Leigh, Katherine Leigh, Jane Leigh, and Julian Leigh, children of my said son Gawen Leigh, equally amongst them. I give to George Grayne 6s. 8d. And of this my last will I make the said Thomas Leigh and William Leigh my executors, and desire Mr Grindich [Grimsdich] to be supervisor hereof.

These being witnesses Sir John Barlow, priest, John Glaue gent., Robert Barlowe, yeoman.

Proved before John ffernehed, Dean of Frodsham, the 7th Feb. 1558[-9], and administration granted to the executors in the will named.

A true copy agreeing with the original, examined by Richard Eaton, Dean of Frodsham.

The Will of Richard Leigh, of High Leigh, co. Chester, Esquire, dated 1560.[1]

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch as I Richard Leghe of Hieghe Leighe co. Chester, Esquire, am appointed to serve the Queenes Majestie

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[1] From the West Hall Deeds [J. P. E.].

in her Grace's martial affairs, in the North parts, where I well consider my life (according to the course of warres) must needs be oft in peril and hasarded, and the escape and preservation from the same very . . . and doubtful. Therefore meaning to meet with that uncertentie of life, do make this my last will and testament to the intent therein to put in certentie my laste will, both how I would and purpose the most precious thing that God hath created in me, and also my worldly substance which it hath pleased the almightie God to lend me here in this life, should be bestowed and disposed.

And first of all I do committe both my body and sowle to the tuition and protection of the Blessed Trinitie so long as it shall please the same that my soule and life shall inhabite and dwell in that case of earthe, and whan these shalbe separate, than I do betake the same bodie to the earth whereof it came and is, and my soule to Abraham's bosome there to reste till the last trompet blow whan we shall all both quicke and dead awake and arise to receyue his iudgement that redeemed us with the effusion of his most precious bloud, And in the same I most instantly and heartilie beseche him to extend the same pitie and mercie upon me and to all others that beleve in him that he did upon these at the time of his most bitter and cruell passion, when he said this day thou shalt be with me in paradise.

And secondly I bequeth all my goodes moveable and unmovable, my household stuffe excepted, unto my dearly beloved wife, paying my debtes that shall appeare in a Scedule to this my last will annexed. And my household stuffe I will shalbe disposed in this manner,—that myne executors shall vewe and see the same and to divide the same into three parts, whereof I will two partes to myne heire, and the third part to my said wife. Also I will that my said wife shall have the use and custodie of the said two partes gyven to myne heire if she wilbe bounde to delyver the same unto my said heire in as good plite and sorte as whan she receyveth it, whan he shall come and be of full age. Also I will that myne executors shall have, occupie, and enioy all my lands, tenements &c. in the County of Chester, and receive the issues and profits thereof during the space of xi years, to the performance of certain legacies hereafter following.

I give to Elizabeth my daughter cxl^{li} to her marriage, which I will that my executors shall pay at the day of her marriage, which sum shall be levied in vij years, in this manner, of my Demeane at High Leghe, I will that my executors shall permit and suffer my said wife to occupy my Capital messuage &c. in High Leighe during the said xj years, paying yearly unto them therefore xx^{li} at such times as they shall agree upon. And also I will that the said revenue of the said Demeane, after the said cxl^{li} be levied, be employed upon Peter Leighe my younger son to keep him to learning in the Innes of Court or elsewhere my said executors shall think most convenient. I will that if my said daughter Elizabeth die before she be married, that then the aforesaid cxl^{li} be bestowed upon my said younger son to keep him to learning as aforesaid. And if it fortune him to die that then it shall be converted to the use of my eldest son, to keep him to learning or otherwise as my said executors shall think most profitable to my said son. Also I will that my said executors shall dispose the residue of the issues of my said lands &c. which I think will amount yearly to vj^{li} to the bringing up of my said two sons according to their good wisdoms, and I desire that they will not only take upon them execution of this my said last will, but that they will also use their wisdoms, as my children may justly give them hearty thanks, and deserve their goodness.

And I do constitute and appoint my dearly beloved Sir John Holcrofte, Knight, John Minshull, esquier, and Richard Birkhened, gentleman, my good and lawful executors of this my said last will, and my said dearly deloved wife, and Mr. Gilberte [Gerrard], the Queenes Majestie Atturney Generall, overseers thereof. And as I (if the departed from this life have power to pray for the lyvers here upon earthe) will have you in continual remembrance with well wishing. So do I desire you according to our wonted friendship used upon earth not to forget me or myne affairs.

Dated 6th Januarie, 2 Elizabeth [1560].

[Signed] RYCHARD LEGH.

[The seal gone.]

Theys bye the detts of Rychard Lygh.

Wyllyam Jhonson	x^{li}
Thomas Aston	vj^{li}
John Astbye [?]	iiij^{li}
Syr John Barloue	iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}.

[This will appears to have been cancelled as the seal is gone and it is cut through in two or three places.]

The Will of Thomas Shacklocke, of Moston, near Manchester, dated 1570.[1]

In the Name of God, Amen, the 21st December 1570. I Thomas Shaclocke of Moston co. Lanc. yeoman, being somthinge greved or payned withe sicknes, make and ordeyne my testament wherein ys conteyned theffect of my last will in maner and forme hereafter mencyoned. My bodie to be buried in the parrishe churche of Manchester in suche sorte as shalbe to the glorie of god and comforthe of my ffrendes. Also yt ys my will and mynde that Thomas Shaclocke my yonger sonne shall haue, hold, and occupie all that messuage or Tenement withe thappurtenances whiche he now hathe in his use, and occupation, together withe thre other closes called the Nanne ffilde, the Moore hey and the Pierre [?], to him and to his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, for the term of 60 years, yeldinge and payinge therefore yerelie duringe the said terme to Robart Shaclocke my eldest sonne and his heirs 3s. 4d. at the feast of the Natyuitie of Saint John Bap^{te} or within ffourtie dayes then next after, yf it be lawfullie asked, for all maner of Rentes and demandes therfore dewe. And for wante of the heirs male of the said Thomas then the premises to reverte and come to Roberte Shaclocke my eldest sonne and his heirs male lawfullie begotten and to be begotten, for ever. And for want of such

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[1] From the High Leigh Deeds, West Hall [J. P. E.].

yssue to my right heirs for ever. And yf it happen that the said Thomas my sonne or his heirs male doe goe about to alter, inffringe, or breake this my said last will I meane do go about to bargaine, sell &c. the estate and estates of the premisses, or any part or parcel thereof from the person or persons, use and uses aforesaid, during the said term of 60 years, contrary to the meaning aforesaid, that then immediately the premises shall wholly, absolutely, freely, and clearly come to the use and uses only of the said Robart my sonne and his heirs and assigns for ever, any Gift, grant &c. to the contrary in any wise, notwithstanding. Also it is my will and mind and I do give and grant unto Robart Shaclocke my son and heir apparent all and singular my manors, messuages, lands &c. which I have within the parish of Manchester or elsewhere within the County of Lancaster, To have and to hold all and singular the said manors &c. to the said Robart Shaclocke and his heirs male lawfully begotten and to be begotten, for ever. And for want of such issue to the right heirs of me the said Thomas Shaclocke the elder for ever. And whereas I have married three daughters, one to Richard Picrofte, another to Randill Kempe, and another to Edwarde Bowkerr unto which daughters I have given to every of them their full child's part of goods &c. And also I have one other daughter which is not yet married, viz. Alis Shaclocke, unto whom I give the sum of £19 which is now in the hands of my said son Thomas Shaclocke, It is my will that she shall have the same immediately after my decease if she come to preferment in marriage or otherwise for her wealth. Also I give unto the wife of Richard Picrofte, one heifer, now in his holding. And to the wife of Randill Kempe xxvj^{s} viij^{d} and to the wife of Edwarde Bowkerr xxvj^{s} viij^{d}. Also I ordain, constitute, and make Elizabeth my wife, and Robart Shaclocke my son, my true and lawful executors. And I shall desire Thomas my son to be the supervisor and overseer of this my testament. In witness whereof I the said Thomas Shaclocke have caused this to be made, and have put my seal and subscribed the same with my hand the day and year first above mentioned in the presence and witness of Nicholas Gepson, Thomas Bicam, and John Gloverr the writer hereof, with others.

Debts which are owing unto me.

Imprimis of Sir Willm Radclyff, knight, dec.	l[s]
Itm. of John Chetam, gent. for a Geldinge sold vnto him	ffoure m̃kes
Itm. of Laurence Langley for lxxx loodes of blacke turves	xxiiij[s]

The Will of Sir John Atherton, Knight, dated 1573.[1]

Testamentum Iohis Atherton mil. factum 18 Ap. 15 Eliz [1573] He willeth y[t] his manors of Atherton Slingesby Ffryton & Hovingham in co York & Lanc̄ shall after his death remayne to John Atherton his son & heir, & 800[li] to his 2 daughters Elizabeth & Margaret for their mariages. A marigge to be made betwyxte John Atherton his son & heir & one of y[e] daughters of John Byron of Newsted. Dame Margaret Atherton wief to y[e] testat[r] shall have Atherton for her lief, xl[s] a yere to Tho[s] Warmesley of Lincoln's Inn student att y[e] Law for lyefe. His exōrs were John Byron his cosyn, John Atherton his son & heir, Edmund Asheton of Chatterton, Edm[d] Hopwod of Hopwod in co. Lanc. Esq[r], James son & heir apparent of the s[d] Edmund Asheton, Henry Towneley "my brother in law," in the said co. Esq[rs], James Stocke of y[e] Cytty of York notary & W[m] Rysheton his servant.

The Will of Thomas Awarte, of Walton-in-the-Dale, co. Lanc., Husbandman, dated 1573.[2]

In the name of God, Amen, the 20 Nov[r] 1573. I Thomas Awarte[3] of Walton in the Dale co. Lanc., husbandman. "My Bodye to be Buryed in the churche yord of the Lawe at the

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[1] From the *Dodsworth MSS.*, Vol. lviii. *Piccope MSS.*, Vol. iii., *p.* 44.

[2] From the Agecroft Collection, Poulton Deeds, No. 83 [J. P. E.].

[3] In Deed No. 84, dated 1606, this family name is spelt "Orte," Edward Orte, of Walton-in-le-Dale, being there mentioned.

discrecon of my executors." Also my will is that Elizabeth my wife shall have and enjoy for her life, all my lands &c. in Walton in the Dale aforesaid, now in the holding of me the said Thomas Awarte, and after the decease of the said Elizabeth my wife, then the said lands &c. shall remain to Edward Awarte my eldest son, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. Remainder to Henry Awarte my younger son, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. Remainder to Alis Awart my eldest daughter, and the heirs male of her body lawfully begotten. Remainder to Jhone [Joan] Awart my youngest daughter and the heirs male of her body lawfully begotten. Remainder to the right heirs of me the said Thomas Awart for ever. All my goods and chattels shall be divided into three parts after my decease, one part to be reserved for my part, another part for my said wife, and the third part to be divided between my three children Henry Awart, Alis Awart, and Jhone Awart. To Edward Awart my eldest son, a plough and plough irons to the same, two harrows, "a yrne teame," a yoke, two arks, "a almerie," a long board standing in the house, two stone troughs, a corn wain, a turf wain, and a pair of wheels. To Henry Awarte my younger son £5. All the residue of my said third part after my debts &c. are discharged, I bequeath to my said two daughters Alis and Jhone equally between them. I constitute and make the said Elizabeth my wife, and William Wudcocke the elder, my lawful executors, and Christopher Smythe supervisor of this my last will and testament.

Witnesses—Robert Swansey, the said Christopher Smythe, Edmond Smythe, and Edward Swansey.

Debts owing unto me the said Thomas Awarte.

Imprmis the late wife of Hugh Swansey deceased and John Swansey her son for two "kye"	iij^{li} ij^{s} viij^{d}
Itm Thomas Lussell of lent money	xxiiij^{s}

Proved 22 July 1574 by the Executors, before George Dobson, who signs himself as George Dobson Dean.

The Will of Dame Jane Gerard, dated 1575.[1]

In the name of God Amen, the twenteth of Novemb in yere of o^r lord god a thowsand fvye hundreth seyventie and fyve and in the xviij^th yere of the Reigne of o^r Sou'aigne lady Elyzabeth &c. I Dame Jane Gerarde of Bromley in the countie of Staff. widowe of good and pfytt remembrance thankes be geven unto god and meyninge to bestowe suche goods as god hath lend [*sic*] me in this worlde do & constitute, ordeyne and make my last will and testament in mann' and forme folowinge, ffirst I will geve and bequeth unto my sonne Sr Thomas Gerard knyght one rynge of golde and one pece of gold of the valewe of xxx^s. Item I will and bequeth unto my daughter-in-law Dame Elyzabeth Gerard my velvet gowne and sixe peces of olde golde. Item I will and bequeth unto my saide sonnes chyldren twelve peces of olde golde to make eu'y one of them a rynge. Item I will geve and bequeth unto M'geret Tarbocke one hundryth m'kes. Item my will is that ffrances Tarbocke shall have twoe hundrethe m'kes so that she marye by thadvice consent and agrement of her Uncle my sonne her Uncle Tarbocke and my executors. And yf she marye withoute theire consents then I will give and bequeth the one hunderte m'kes that the said ffraunces shulde have unto her syster M'garet Tarbocke and the other hunderte m'kes I will give and bequeth unto my sonnes chyldren to bee equally devyded amongest them. Item I will geve and bequeth unto my brother Sr Peter Legh knyght, one gold rynge and one olde ryall. Item I geve and bequeth unto my cosyn Henry Eccleston xl^s. Item I will and bequeth unto my brother George Legh one yocke of draught oxen. Item I geve and bequeth unto my sonne in lawe Roberte Charnocke one gold rynge and one olde ryall. Item I will and bequeth unto my systre Ellen Standley my tafeyta gown. Item I will and bequeth unto my systre Elyzabeth Downes a velvet kertell, my best salt my cloke and my savegarde. Item I will and bequeth unto my systre Ales Rowley my best clothe gowne and vj^lb xiij^s iiij^d

[1] Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 5 [J. P. E.].

in money. Item I will and bequeth unto Jane Worsley my s'vaunt vj^{lb} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}. Item I will and bequeth unto M'garet Allat fyve poundes in money, one peire of fyne fflaxen shetes and twoe pillowe beres. Item I will and bequeth unto ffraunces Whyte xl^{s}. Item I will and bequeth unto Ales Knoell iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}. Item I will and bequeth unto Rycharde Asseldey one heyver. Item I will and bequeth unto Edmunde Allat my s'vaunt my best geldinge. Item I geve and bequeth unto my s'vaunt John Langton a baye geldinge called Bruce. Item I will and bequeth unto Edmunde Davy one heyver. Item I will and bequeth unto M'gerey Langton vj^{lb} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}. Item all the resydewe of my goods before not geven nor bequethed, my funerall expencs dyscharged my detts and legàcies payde I will geve and bequeth the one half thereof to my sonnes chyldren to be equally devyded amongst them And the other half I will geve and bequeth unto my executors to be equally devyded amongst them. And to see this my last will and testament well and trewly observed and kept accordinge to the trewe Intent and meyninge of the same, I doe constytute ordeyne and make my sonne Sr Thomas Gerarde knyght, my brother Sr Peter Legh knyght, my sonne in lawe Roberte Charnocke, my cosyn Henry Eccleston esquyers and my trustie s'vaunte Edmunde Allat my trewe and faythfull executors. In wytnes whereof I have subscribed this with my owne hand in the p'sence of thos whose names are wrytten on the backe syde hereof.

Item I will & bequeth unto William Dorringe my s'vaunt xl^{s} yf he be dwellinge with me at the day of my death.

[Signed] JANE GERRARD.

On the back.

John Langton Wyllyam Doryngton
Mestris Elezabethe Downes
Ales Rowley.

Written on two large sheets of paper (written on one side only), fastened together at the top, and signed at the bottom of the second page, so evidently the *original* will [J. P. E.].

On the back of the first sheet is the following codicil.

96283

ffurthermore my will is that yf John Deve of Wynington can not obteyne and gett that ꝑte of his house as William Ꝑker nowe hath in his occupacon then I will that he have payde hym agayne the x^{lb} I had of hym for the same house. Item I will further that yf John Hynagenbotham [*sic*] do not agree with the widowe Haselhurst so that she meye not enioy the one half of her house, then I will that she shall have the iiij^{lb} vj^{s} viij^{d} payde her agayne. Item I will and geve power and aucteritie to my executors that yf my goods will not extend to paye my detts, discharge my legacies and my funerall expences, wch ffunerall expences I referre to the dyscrecion of my executors, then I will and geve auctoritie to my saide executors to take twentie poundes of that ꝑte or porcon as I have geven to ffraunces Tarbocke towardes the dyscharge of the same And not otherwayes. Item I will geve and bequeth to my systre Downes one peire of shetes that lye on her bedde and one canopie hanginge over the same bedde.

[Signed] JANE GERRARD.

The Will of John Aldersey, of Spurstowe, dated 1581.[1]

"In the name of god amen the xxixth day of november in the year of our Lord god 1581, et anno Regni Dñæ nr̃æ Elyzabethe nunc Anglie Regiñ vicesimo quarto etc. I Jhon Auldersaye of Spurstow within the countie of Chester sicke in bodye but hole in mynd, and of perfect memorye praysed be god therfore yet neuerthelesse dreading naturall Death to man vncertayn I doe ordayne and make this my last will and Testament in maner and forme as followethe, first I geue and bequeth my Soule to almightie god and to our blessed Ladye and to all the holy company of heaven trusting that by the merytes of christ Jesus my saviour I shalbe one of his elect and chosen people in his blessed kingdome of heaven, and my body to be buryed in the parishe churche

[1] From the Aldersey Deeds [J. P. E.].

yard of Bunbury nere vnto the buryall of Mr Rondle Spurstow. Itm my will and pleasure ys that Anne Aldersay my wyffe may haue and enioye all and singular my capital house in Spurstow with all the ground there vnto belonging with all thinges contay[n]ed within the said house or belonginge to the same for and during her lyffe naturall keping her selfe sole and vnmaryed. Item I geue and bequethe vnto the said Anne Aldersay my wyffe the reversion of an Indenture geven and graunted vnto me and my assignes by Georg Spurstow of Spurstow for certayn yeres yet to come, as by the same Indenture better appereth Item my will and pleasure ys that the said Ann Aldersay my wyffe may haue my house in Bunburye, Item I geue and bequeth to Rondull Aldersaye my eldest sonne my gould ring with all my armor and harnesse within my house, with all my bedstedes boordes tables glasse and waynskote worke within my house and chambers, requiring the said Rondull to leave the same at his discease to Jhon Aldersay his eldest sonne. Item I geue and bequethe to Jhon Aldersay my second sonne dwelling in London the some of xxiij^{l} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} of lawfull englyshe money which Raffe Done of Flaxyards esquire oughethe vnto me, being due to be paid before the date herof. Item I geue and bequeth to Jhon Aldersaye my sonne Rondull his eldest sonne my grey nagge, my male saddle my best brydle and harnesse there vnto belonging, my swerd [sword] and Dagger. Alsoe I geue and bequethe to Jhon Cotton, my sonne Cotton his eldest sonne xl^{s} to be paid vnto him within one yere next after my decease. Item I geue and bequeth to Amye Mowson the some of vj^{l} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} to be paid vnto her at the discretion of Anne Aldersay my wyffe, and Rondull Aldersay my sonne. Item I geue and bequeth to Catheryne Bebington my sonne Bebington his daughter the some of fyve poundes to be paid vnto her within one whole yere nest [*sic* for next] after my decease, Item I geue and bequeth to Elizabeth Egerton, my sonne Egerton his daughter a heffer calfe of one yere ould. Item I geue and bequeth to Joane Vernan my servant a heffer calfe of one year ould Item I geue and bequeth to euerye one of the Rest of my chyldrens chyldren vj^{s} viij^{d} to be paid vnto them by the discrecon

of my Executor herafter named. Item the rest of all my goods moveable and vnmoveable quicke and dead wherso-euer or in whose handes the[y] are or may be found, I geue and bequeth to Anne Aldersay my wiffe to vse and dispose as she shall thincke convenient my fu[n]eralls being by her discharged and I honestly brought home Item I ordayne and make my trustie and welbeloved brother Thomas Aldersay of London my sole, turue [*sic* for true] and lawfull Executor, to se[e] that this my last will and Testament be well and truly accomplyshed fulfilled and discharged as my onely trust lyenth [*sic* for lieth] in him.

These are the deptes which are due vnto the Testator.

Imprimis Mr Raffe Done of Flaxyardes Esquire ys Indepted vnto in the some of	xxiij^{l} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item Mr George Spurstow of Spurstow esquire	xx^{s}
Item Mrs Helynor Spurstow wydow ...	xx^{s}
Itm the same wydow Spurstow for an ambling mare pryce	iij^{li}
Itm the same wydow Spurstow for a fatte cow pryce	xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item lend vnto the said wydow Spurstow a bushell of barlye	
Item lend vnto the same wydow Spurstow	viij^{s}
Item Rychard Spurstow late husband of the said wydow Spurstow as appereth by his Specialtye	viij^{li}

These were wytnesses when the Testator Sealed this his last will and Testament and delyuered the same to the vse of his Executor aboue named as his full acte and dede.

[Signed with a mark]

John Eggerton Randull Aldersey Raffe Jelycose William Dunne Raffe Mottram."

Endorsed on the back :—

"My fathers wylle."

Also endorsed :—

"Will of John Aldersey
29 Nov. 1581 24 Eliz."

The Will of Richard Legh, of Swinehead, in High Legh, co. Chester, Gent., dated 1582.

In the name of God, Amen, the 20 Oct. 1582. I Richard Leighe of Swinhead in High Leighe co. Chester, gent., sick in body but of perfect and sound remembrance. "My bodie to be buried at my pishe Church of Rostourne."

I give and bequeath to Thomas Leighe my youngest son the sum of 20li to be raised out of my goods &c. my debts and funeral expences being first discharged out of the whole. To my son John Leighe 10li out of my goods as aforesaid. To my six daughters Katherine Leigh, Alice Leighe, Jane Leighe, Elizabeth Leighe, Anne Leigh, and Ellen Leighe, 100 marks apiece, chargeable on all my lands in the County of Chester.

And of this my last will I constitute and make Richard Leighe my son and heir, and Jane Leighe my wife, my true and lawful executors.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us Richard Leighe, Wm Willmatt, Richard Gregg, Raphe Willimat, John Simpson, John Gregg, John Wilkinson, Roger Bound with others.

The Will of Jane Legh, of Swinehead, Widow, dated 1585.

In the name of God, Amen, the 8 Feb. 27 Eliz. [1584-5]. I Jane Leighe, widow, wife of Richard Leighe of Swinhead, gent., deceased, being sick of body but of good and perfect remembrance. "My will and mind is that my dead bodie be

buried in the pishe Church of Rostorne as neere to the place where my husband was buried as possiblie I maie."

I give and bequeath to my son John Leighe the sum of 10^{li} due to the said Richard Leigh my late husband by virtue of a lease by him granted to one Hamnett Warburton, of a messuage or tenement in Comberbache, and after the death of the said Richard, due to me the said Jane as his sole executor. Also I give to my said son John Leighe 13^{li} 6^{s} 8^{d} due to my said husband in his lifetime, by virtue of a lease by him granted to one Jerrard Leighe, of a messuage in Mollards-greene in the town of High Leighe, and after his death due to me the said Jane. Also I give to the said John Leighe 3^{li} 6^{s} 8^{d} due to the said Richard Leigh in his lifetime by virtue of a lease made to one John Broadhurst of a messuage in Mollardsgreene aforesaid, and after his death due to me the said Jane.

Also I give to my six daughters Katherine Leighe, Alice Leighe, Jane Leighe, Elizabeth Leighe, Anne Leighe, and Ellen Leighe, all my beds and bedding with all the furniture thereto belonging, and all my linen clothes belonging to the house, equally amongst them.

The rest of all my goods &c. I bequeath to my two sons John Leighe and Thomas Leighe and my said six daughters, equally amongst them. I bequeath to John Swan one bushel of rye. And of this my last will I constitute John Leighe my son and Elizabeth my daughter, executors.

These being witnesses, Richard Daniell, Ric. Swan, Henrie Hatton, Tho: Asphall.

The Will of Richard Tipping, of Manchester, dated 1588.[1]

In the Name of God, Amen, the xviijth day of January 1588. I Richard Tippinge of Manchester co. Lanc. Lynnen-

[1] A contemporaneous copy *penes me* [J. P. E.].

drapar, being in good health and perfect remembrance, beeinge mynded by gods assystance to sett such Lands and goods in order, which at this p^r^sent the Lord hath beestowed vppon mee, ffor avoydynge of trobles, do make this my last will and testamente in manner and fforme followinge. My body to bee buryed in the pishe church of Manchest^r^ or wher it shall please god to disposse yt. Also yt is my will and I give and assigne over vnto Isabell now my wieffe, my lands which I lately purchased of James Travis now in the occupation of Robt. Buckley Appothecarye, and also my leases and tacks. To haue hould and enioy the saide Lands durynge her widdowhoode, And to enioy and occupy the leases also du^r^ing her widdowhood, yf the terme in the said leases shall happen so longe to endure. And after her mariage or decease, I give the said lands to Samwell Tippinge my yongest sonn, and to the heires of his body lawfully to be begotten. And ffor default of such issue I give the same lands to George Tippinge my seconnde sonn, and to the heires of his body lawfully to be begotten. And for default of such issue to John Tippinge my eldest sonn, and to the heires male of his body lawfully to be begotten. And for default of such issue to the ryght heires of mee ye said Richard Tippinge for ever. And after ye mariage or death of ye said Isabell Tippinge my wieffe, I give the revercon of the yeares in the said lease to George Tippinge my said seaconnd sonn and to his assignes for all such yeares as then shall bee to come, and to expire in the same lease. And as touchinge all the rest of my goods &c. yt is my will y^t^ after my debts are paid, if there be any to pay, and my ffuneralle discharged y^t^ the same shall be divided into three equal parts, whereof one part I reserve to myself to be bestowed by my executrix hereafter named in such manner as I shall hereafter in this my will appoint. The seaconnd part I give to Isabell now my weiffe, and the third part I give to be equally divided amongst all my children, so that yf John Tippinge my eldest sonn looke to haue a part amongst them, yt is my will he shall be barred of the same, unless he will put in amongst them all the monney which I gave him ye day of his mariage. And if he will do so, then he to divide, and take his fyliall porc̃on with them rattably as it shall please god to fall out. And as touchinge my parte of

goods, I do give £100 of the same to George Tippinge my sonn. Item, I bequeath to my brother in law Richard Brownsword a mournynge cloke, to my sonn John Tippinge a cloke, and to his weiffe a mournynge goune. Item, to my cossyn Thomas Brownsword a cloke, and to Isabell Brownsword a mournynge goune. Item, I bequeath to every one of my sonnes a cloke, and to every one of my daughters a goune. Item, I bequeath to my servent Alice Gee 40s. in monney and a goune. Item, to Robt Leighe I bequeath 5s. in gould as a token of remembrance. And as touching ye order of my ffunerall I refferre that wholly to ye discrecc̃on of Isabell my weiffe to be done as she shall think convenient. Item, all the rest of my part of goods I give to Isabell my weiffe to dispose at her discrec̃on. And I do make my said weiffe my solle executrix. And I do ordayne and make my two sonnes George Tippinge and Samwell Tippinge to be overseears of this my last will and testament.

RICHARDE TIPPINGE.

Signed and sealed in the presence of us whose names bee here vnder subscribed.

Roger Bexwicke
Raphe Gee
Raphe fflecher
Robt Leigh.

[No date of probate.]

The Will of John Massie, of Coddington, Esq., dated 1591.[1]

The Will of John Massie of Coddington Esq. dated 12 October 33 Elizabeth [1591].

Mary my wife; my younger son William Massie; my daughters Mary and Jane; Thomas my son; John my son;

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[1] From the *Harleian MSS.*, 2,067, f. 7. This will is not now at Chester, and does not appear to be in the Volume of Transcripts in the Bishop's Registry. [J. P. E.]

my cousin Randle Brereton of Grafton [?]. The Coddington estate to my son John, remainder to William my son, remainder to me the said John Massie, remainder to George Massie of Poddington Esq, remainder to John Massie of Coughall brother of the said George, remainder to William Massie of Chester merchant; my brother Barnston, my nephews John Barneston and Thomas Barneston; my cousens William Massie of Chester, John Vaudrey, my lovinge kinsmen Richard Brereton, William Massie and John Massie and William Barnston Executors.

The Will of Eleanor Hitchen, of Handley, dated 1591.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 20th Feb. 33 Eliz. [1590-1]. I Elnoure Hytchen of Handelye. My body to be buried in Christian burial in such place as shall be thought good by my executors. I bequeath among the poor people of Handelye 5s. To the mending of the highways of the same parish 10s. To the reparation of Handelye Church 3s 4d. To every one of my god-children 12d. To my cosen William Barnston one gilt spoon. To my son Antony Hitchen the messuage or tenement with all lands &c. situate in Milton which I purchased, To have and to hold to my said son and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for default of such heirs, then to my daughter Mary and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten. Provided always and my full intent and meaning is, and I bequeath to my said daughter Mary, £80, to be paid by my said son Antony within the space of four years next after my decease, towards her preferment and better maintenance, and in default of payment the said estate shall revert to my said daughter Mary and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten. Provided also that if my said son Antony or any heir inheritable by force of this my will, shall make any

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[1] Deeds in possession of Messrs. Boydell, Taylor & Fluitt, Chester, Nov., 1889 [J. P. E.].

alienation of the premises, so as the same may not go according to this my will, Then the same shall remain to my said daughter and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, with remainder to my cosen William Barneston and his heirs for ever. After my debts and legacies are paid, "& I onestelie brought," I give all the rest of my goods equally betwixt my son Antony and daughter Marie. I make my cosen William Barnestone and my daughter Marie my executors, and my worshipful master Mr Hugh Colvile, my overseer.

Debts owing to me.

Jogene Getten 4^{li} 6^{s} 8^{d}
James Eince for a bushel of malt, 4^{s} 6^{d}
Jane Minshoue, 7^{s} and I have of hers two pewter dishes of London metal and a candlestick.
John Manynge my uncle Manynge's son 8^{s}, since he dwelled in the parsonage of Handley.
My cosen Rauffe Bostocke of Tatnall in ready money out of purse, 40^{s}

The Will of Henry Moss, of Brockhurst in Pinnington, co. Lanc., Yeoman, dated 1597.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 14 July 1597. I Henry Moese of Brockehurst in Pynington co. Lanc., yeoman. My body to be buried in my parish churchyard of Leigh. First my will is that all my goods &c. shall remain in the custody and government of Isabell now my wife during her life (if she so long keep herself a widow), and upon the same condition I will that she shall enjoy the messuage and tenement now in my possession. And if the said Isabell after my decease marry any person, then I appoint that John Moese my reputed son begotten of the said Isabell shall have and enjoy to his proper use the full moiety of all my said goods &c. together also with all the said messuage and tenement in

[1] From deeds in possession of W. Ecroyd, Esq., Nelson, near Burnley, A.D. 1893 [J. P. E.].

Brockehurst aforesaid and Pynington, now in my occupation, of the ancient yearly rent of 4^s 10^d, to hold to the said John Moese and his assigns during my term therein, and after the decease of the said Isabell my wife, my will is that the said John Moese shall enjoy all and singular the said goods &c. I give and release to Richard Moese my brother all that 3^{li} 13^s 4^d which he oweth me, together which 6s 8d more which I appoint my executors to pay to the said Richard for the use of his four children, upon condition that he suffer the said 4^{li} to be at interest or otherwise used for the best profit of the said children by James Crofte, James Sorocoulde, and William Moyle. I give to the said Richard Moese one blue coat, one pair of stockings, one dagger, and a girdle, and to Raufe my servant one pair of breeches, a pair of stockings, and a pair of shoes. I forgive and release to the said William Moyle all that debt of 15^s 6^d which he oweth me. I constitute, ordain, and make the said John Moese my son and Isabell my wife, my true and lawful executors.

I owe to Thomas Darwall	48^s

Debts owing to me the said Henry.

John Strange of Lawton	50^s 6^d
Roger Bruch Esq. and Henry Corleis have covenanted to deliver to me or my executors 16 bushels of oats within one fortnight after Michaelmas next, for which I have paid them	7^{li} 4^s
Peter Keigheley	13^s
The same Peter hath covenanted to deliver me 2 bushels of beans between Christmas and Purification upon demand.	
George Thomassonne	39^s 8^d
John Hasleden son of Roger Hasleden... ...	29^s
William Lyptrote of Weastleigh...	19^s 4^d
Adam Hulme upon his pledge viz. a ring ...	20^s
Alyce Arrowsmyth widow, Junior	3^s
John Wigan for work	18^d
Raufe Sothewoorth for meal	6^s
Henry Maddocke of Bedforth	8^s

Witnesses—James Crofte, William Moyle, and James Sorocoulde, with others.

Proved at Chester 28 Sept. 1597 by John Moese one of the executors, power reserved to Isabell the relict and other executor.

The Will of Thomas Clayton, Servant to Mr. Justice Walmisley, dated 1601.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 18th Nov. 44 Elizabeth [1601]. I Thomas Claiton servant to Mr Justice Walmisley. My body to Christian burial. Item I give, bequeath, and assign to Bridgett my wife, all the interest that I have in the house that I now dwell in, in Huntcote co. Lanc., and all the grounds whatsoever in Huntcote and Ackerington, which I have from Thomas Collynson or of Richard Aytoughs or otherwise, and all my horses, mares, oxen, kine, cattle, corn, and hay, whatsoever in Huntcote and Ackerynton aforesaid. I give to the said Bridget my wife all my household stuff and goods in my said house at Huntcote, saving only two "roñe" candlesticks and the bedsteads in the parlour at Huntcote drest with yellow say, and the bed, bolster, pillows &c. which I give to my brother John Clayton, to remain at his house at Litleharwood. Also I give to my said wife Bridget all such sums of money as she hath of mine in her custody, or owing to me by reason of any specialty, from Mr Grymeshay of Clayton, Mr Holden of Holden or any other for him, Mrs Birtwysle, John Jackson, or William Rishton. Whereas I have a judgment upon a recognizance of £500 against Mr Francis Tunstall my wife's father, I will that my said wife shall only have to do therewith, to her own profit and good. Also whereas I have divers sums of money in the custody of my brother John Clayton, it is my will that he do bestow £20 thereof to the poor people within the parish of Blackburn, at the discretion of himself, Henry Mawdsley, Henry ffielden, and Hugh Marsden of Blackborne, and also that he give to the school of Blackborne 40s, and

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[1] From deeds in possession W. Ecroyd, Esquire, Nelson, near Burnley, A.D. 1892 [J. P. E.].

to the said Henry ffielden, Henry Mawdesley, and Hugh Marsden, each of them 10s as a token of my love to them, and to each servant in my house at the day of my death, one year's wages, as a legacy, and to each of his own tenants in Little Harwood, and also to my tenant Lawrence Whalley and his mother, each one years rent, and to each of my sisters children other than to George, William, and Jame[s] Abbott, and other than Thomas, John, and Christopher Whalley, 40s. apiece, and to the said William Abbott £6. 13. 4., and to the said Christopher Whalley £10, and the residue of such sums of money I bequeath to himself and my brother Edward equally between them, saving that it is not my meaning that my brother Edward shall have any part of that sum of £200 for which there is a specialty from my brother John to me, in the custody of John of Roberts, for that sum I do release and freely give as a legacy to my said brother John solely. And also whereas there are divers sums of money of mine in the custody of my brother Rauffe, my will is that he pay to George or Henry Walmysley £24. 14s. which I received this term, as money recovered of one John Myles, saving that my said brother Rauffe is to retain £7. 10s. thereof which I have already paid to Charles Haworth, and I would desire George and Henry Walmysley bestow somewhat on John Myles' wife, which if they refuse to do then it is my will that my said brother Rauffe give unto her of my said proper money so in his custody 40s. Also I will that my said brother Rauffe give to the poor in every prison in London, Southwark, and Westminster, 20s with the privity of my cosen Randell Caterall and Mr Thomas Brockholls of Claighton, and also to the said Mr Brockholls, Randle Caterall, John Whalley, James Abbott, my brother William and himself, each of them four marks or cloth for mourning of the worth of four marks at their own choice. I will that my said brother Rauffe give to my said cozen John Whalley £40, and to my said cozen James Abbott £10, and to Mr Doctor Wooten for a token of my love towards him two sovereigns in gold, and one angel in gold to his wife, and all the residue of my said money so in the custody of my said brother Rauffe, I bequeath to him the said Rauffe Clayton my brother and to my said brother or half-brother William Clayton now dwelling with him, equally

between them. And I make my said four brethren John, Edward, Raphe, and William, my executors, and the said Mr Brockholls and Randell Caterall my Supervisors. In witness whereof and to the intent that one part of this my will may remain with my said brother John and the other part with my said brother Rauffe, I have caused the same to be indented.

[Signed] p me THOMAM CLAITON.

Sealed &c. in the presence of

[Signed] Thomas Brockholes William Clayton
John Rea John Whalley
Raphe Clayton.

Codicil

If the said Bridgett my wife shall in any point go about by pretence of custom or law, to entitle herself to the thirds of all my goods, and attempt any suit against my executors, then she shall not have to do with the said Recognizance and Judgment nor any of my household goods &c. but that all the same be to my executors jointly.

[Signed as above.]

[No date of probate.]

The Will of Mr. Edward Legh, of Hallam, co. Chester, dated 1606.[1]

God bee mercifull vnto mee, and bless mee etc. Amen. In the name of the father & of the sonn & of the holie gost, so bee it: I Edwarde Legh[2] of Hallam wthin the Countie of Chester beinge verie pfect of remembrance and of sane Memorie at this p'sent praysed be god thearfore do make this my last will and Testament wth my owne hand writinge in

[1] From Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 10 [J. P. E.].
[2] Brother of Sir Peter Legh [J. P. E.].

mane^{r} & forme followinge ffirst I bequeath my soule in to the hands of the holie Trinitie, hopinge to bee saued by ye paynfull passion of my deare sweete sauiour Ihesu Christ & his merrits & by the merritts and meanes off no other creature either Saint or Angell And my bodie to bee buried in the Chapell of my louinge brother Sr Peter Legh at Winwick by his leaue and licence in the Tombe and buriall place wheare my good graundfather was layde, accordinge to his wish & will that as many of his sonns and sonns sonns as would, might lye by him. For my lands and Tenements goods and chattells wch almightie god hath lent mee or made mee owner of I bequeath them whollie & solelie to my most faithfull kinde wife, and to my dearest brother Mr Thomas Legh Caruer to ye Kings most Excellent Matie in maner & forme followinge ffirst out of the whole to discharge my depts & legacies and to pforme my funerall in decent sort viz. my Seruingmen to mourne in cotes and a dozen poore ould men in gownes wheareof I will that Rondle Dale & Robert Coppock bee ij of them, if they will goe to the said Church of Winwick, Also I will that xx^{li} at the least bee bestowed vppon a dinner vppon my frends and Kynd Neighbours about Hallam and such as will take paynes to goe wth my corps to the buryall & a convenient some to the poore that are theare or by the way to bee bestowed vppon ould charitable & younge fatherles children at the discretione of my executors: Item I bequeath vnto my deare cosin Legh pson of Standish a mourninge cloke & xx^{s} in money to bestowe a godlie ffunerall Sermon at my buryall vppon the Auditorie Itē I geue and bequeath to my right worshipfull louinge brothe^{r} Sr Peter Legh Knight xx angells in gould to bee paid him wthin a yeare after my death, vppon condition that hee make no clayme to any of my goods & Chattells and do suffer my bodye to lye by the bodie of Sr Pears Legh deceassed in the same Tombe. Item I geue and bequeath to my deare onlie Sister M^{ris} Elizabeth Lathom xx angells likwise in gould to bee paid her wthin a yeare, and vj in calfe heffers to be puided her agaynst May day after shee goeth to continve & keepe house at Alertonn [?] desiringe her most dearlie & brotherly to haue a continvall motherlie care of her children, and as shee will answeare mee in an other world not to marrie but

fo^{r} the bettringe of her selfe & children wth the aduise and consent of Sr Peter Legh & my deare brother Thomas; who I beseech of all dearnes & loues to continve faithfull brothers & vncles to her & her Children. Item I bequeath vnto my Nephwe Lathom of Parbold my Rapier and dagger desiringe him & his bedfellowe to honor god wth prayers and thanks-geuinge daylie in theire house at Parbold and in so doinge god will bless them & theirs both in theire house & in the feilds: Itē I geue to euerie one of my vncle Mainyaringes children & ech of my Aunte Collyers children that shall bee liuinge at my death x^{s} a peece to buy them ech one a bible or a small ringe to weare fo^{r} my sake Item I geue to euerie one that I haue beene godfather vnto vj^{s} viij^{d} a peece to buy them nve [new] Testaments wth or other prayer books to hono^{r} god vppon: Item I geue to euerie Seruingman that hath serued mee a yeare in my house halfe a yeares wages to bee paid him wthin vj months after my death and namelie I geue to Thomas Erlam that hath serued mee longe xx nobles & to Edmund Taylor xx^{s} to buy him a fayre bible wthall whom god hath blessed wth much riches, and thearfore I geue him less then the others: Though I haue cause to loue him greatlie Itē I geue to the Church or Chapell of Darsburie towards the findinge of a preacher theare xx^{li} prayinge god to stirr vpp the rightworshipfull Justices, Gentlemen, and the rest of the inhabitants harts to contribute & mayntayne a preacher theare whearein I would haue beene verie earnest & forward if I had liued: Itē I desier my deare wife & my faithfull louinge brother Thomas to agree together in great vnitie & loue, and not to part the houshould goods & chattells but to inioy them ioyntlie as brother & Sister or rather like man & wife, as also to inioy ioyntlie together the Capitall messuage & demayne of Yarlett wthin the County of Stafford duringe the minoritie of my cosin Edward Collyere whom I desier may bee kept to learninge and to inioy Joyntlie the ꝑfitts out of Whitley Hallam, Berkett, a Tack I haue neare litle Budworth called Shawes and a Tack of ground beinge ꝑcell of the nve manor ffarme All wch my lands & Tenements goods & chattells whatsoeuer & whearsoeuer I giue and bequeath them to my said deare louinge wife Katherin Legh and to my dearest brother Thomas Legh To haue, hould, & inioy the said Lands

& Tenements goods and Chattells to the said Katherin my wife, and to the said Thomas Legh my brothere for and duringe the naturall life of the said Katherin, and after the death of the said Katherin, then the said lands & Tenements goods & chattells to remayne & cume whollie vndeuided or as many of them as shall bee vnspent vnto the said Thomas Legh his executors and Administrators To this intent and purpose That hee the said Thomas Legh his executors & Administrators shall (as hee will answeare me before the Judgment seate of god) wth the pfitts of the ꝑmisses help to mayntayne & bringe vpp Edward Lathom, Peter Lathom, Wm Lathom, Richard Lathom, John Lathom & Katherin Lathom sonns and daughter of the said Elizabeth Lathom my naturall deare Sistar vntill they cume to p^r^ferment or the age of xxj yeares If they will bee aduised & followe the direction of the said Thomas Legh, Prouided alwaies and neuer the less my will & mynd is, that if the said Katherin Legh my deare wife shall refuse and mislike to pforme this my last will And shall not enter into bond wth suertie wth her w^th^in vj months, for the pforminge of this my will vnto my said brother Thomas, in such Sum̃e as hee shall thinke fitt for the quiett inioyinge of the ꝑmisses ioyntlie & vndeuided as aforesaid and after the death of the said Katherin that the lands & tenements goods & chattells before bequeathed so longe as the said Katherin by law had right to her pte: That then the said Katherin my will is shall haue the Capitall messuage and demayne of Yarlett aforesaid or a C marcks in money yearly out of the same onlie in satisfaction of all the interest title clayme & demande wch shee the said Katherin shall or may make to any of my Lands, Tenements, goods & chattells before mentioned And my will is that shee the said Katherin shall bee debarred & concluded for challenginge any of my goods & chatells taxes or leases Accordinge to the true meaninge of certen assurances wch god willinge I intend to make to the vse of my said brother Thomas for the inioyinge of the ꝑmisses accordinge to the effect & purport hearof: Itē my will & desier is that all such writinges and Euidences that concerne others, that are in my Custodie may bee deliuered by my brother Thomas to the right owners whearof sume I haue that were left wth mee by reason of my office of Eschea-

tor, Also my mynd & will is, that if any haue iust cause of wronge doone them by mee by coulour of my said office of Escheator wthout theire owne concent & agreement, that my brother Thomas in sume sort make satisfaction vnto them & I desier god & the ꝑties to remitt & forgiue mee. Item whearas theare are certen writinges in my Custodie made betwix mee and one Sefton of Barrow ꝑish concerninge the payment of xv^{li} ꝑ anñ at euerie quarter a portion of the said xv^{li} fo^{r} vj years frō the makinge of the said writings the truth and true meaninge is that the said xv^{li} fo^{r} vj years is due wth the interest & ꝑfitt of the same vnto my louinge Godsonn Iohn Lathom fo^{r} his mother my deare Sister disbursed & paid lx^{li} fo^{r} the buyinge of the said Anvitie of xv^{li} of the said Sefton whearfore my will is and I charge my brother Thomas & my deare wife to pay & account to the vse of the said Iohn Lathom the said xv^{li} fo^{r} so manie years as aforesaid wth the ꝑfitt that shall bee made of the same.

Depts owinge by mee as followeth :

Imp^{r}mis to my deare brother Thomas about lv^{li} for wch hee hath a bill or bond being ꝑte of the money hee receaued of Mr Brooke : Item to my Sister Lathom wch shee lent mee about Martinmas anno domini 1605, l^{li}. Item that shee lent mee scince about xiij^{li}. Item to my said brother Thomas owinge wch I scince had of Sr Robert Needham xl^{li} whearof I sent my said brother x^{li} in Gould to London ꝑte of the said xl^{li}. Itē owinge to one George Mills iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} ꝑcell of x^{li} for wch hee hath a bill of my hand, but xx nobles was paid by my cosin Iohn Legh about Easter last : Itē owinge to a litle brode black man in Cheapsyde wth whom George Mills sonn was prentise about xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} wch I would haue made vpp xl^{s} because I haue ough it him for million fustian longe. Item I will that W^{m} Ꝑker of Bradkerke & Thomas Shawe his halfe brother or heire next of blood haue v^{li} paid them wch I in conscience ough to theire brother Robert Shawe sumetyme my fellowe student in Grayes Ine wthin ij yeares after my death. Item theare is viij^{li} yearlie to bee paid to the vse of Timothie Harpur viz. at Midsumer & Martinmas or wthin iiij dayes after at Darsburie Church duringe her life or els the Stanrie feild & Mikell Hallom are forfeted for none payment

thearof and after the death of the said Tymothie theare is lxxx^{li} to bee paid to Thomas Harpur her husband wthin iij months (as I take it) after her death.

Depts owinge vnto mee as followeth.

Imp^{r}mis Sr Peter Legh oweth mee for viij yeares Anvitie wch my grandfather Sr Pears Legh made mee issuinge out of all his lands xx^{li} yearlie wch cumeth vnto a hundreth & iij score pounds, Item my Nephwe Edward Vawdrey oweth mee x^{li} as appeareth by his bond, Itē Richard Hicock oweth mee iiij^{li} to bee paid at Midsumer next & other iiij^{li} to bee paid at Midsum̃er cume twelmunth as appeareth by his bill; Of this my last will & Testament I ordayne and make my dearest brother Thomas now by gods blessing & p^{r}ferment the Kings Matie Caruer in Ordinarie, and my most kynd & Louinge wife my lawfull & . . . Executors of this my last will and Testament, desyringe intreatinge and con[iur]inge them both by all the loues that they or either of them did euer beare vnto mee, and as they will answeare mee before the tribunall & Judgment seate of god to ꝑforme this my said will in all poynts as neare as they can accordinge to the true meaninge: Ꝑuided neuertheless & vppon this condition, That if the said Katherin my wife do in any sort disagree and refuse to Joyne wth my said brother Thomas in the ꝑuing & ꝑformance of this my last will & Testament, Then my will & meaninge is that shee shall bee no Executrix of this my will, nor clayme any benefite thearby, but bee vtterie debarred frō hauinge any Title or culler of clayminge any thinge whatsoeuer by vertue of the same. Item of this my last will and Testament I most humblie pray & beseech the right Reuerend ffather in god George Lord Bushopp of Chester, and my right worshipfull euer deare frend Sir Peter Warburtō one of his Maties Iustices of the comon pleas to bee faithfull ouerseers and furtherers to the vttermost of theire indeuours, and that for gods cause, to cause & see this my will ꝑformed as neare as may bee accordinge to the true meaninge thearof. In witnesse hearof I the said Edward Legh beinge in ꝑfect & sane memorie at the makinge hearof prayse, honour & thanks I render vnto almightie god thearfore haue hearunto put my hande & seale the xxvijth day of Aprill in the yeare of the Raigne

of Iames by the grace of god Kinge of England, ffrance and Ireland the iiijth and of Scotland the xxxixth defendor of the faith &c. 1606.

William Bate. He^{y} Sumners.

EDWARD LEGH. [Signed.]

Sealed & delivd by mee Edward Leigh in the p^{r}sence of Richard Hicoke Thomas Lathom
Richard Dobson
Robert Millington
William Dauemport.

[Endorsed.]

27 April 1606.

The will of Mr Edwd Legh of Hallom brother to Sr Peter Legh.

Administration of the goods of Elizabeth Swetenham, of Hurdsfield, Widow, dated 1608.[1]

Bond by which Edmund Swetenham of Somerford near Marton co. Chester, gent., and John Alcocke of Sumerdford near Brereton in the county aforesaid, yeoman, are bound to the Bishop of Chester in £10.

Dated 10 Aug. 6 James, 1608.

The condition is that the above bounden Edmund Swetenham well and truly administer all the goods &c. of Elizabeth Swetenham late of Hurdsfeld, widow, deceased, and exhibit a true and perfect inventory of all the goods &c. which the said deceased died possessed of at or before the 20 Sept. next ensuing.

Letters of Administration of the goods &c. of Elizabeth

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[1] From the *Swettenham Chartulary*, *p.* 29 [J. P. E.].

widow of Lawrence Swettenham[1] granted to her son Edmond, 10 Aug. 1608. Her inventory was dated the same day.

The Will of William Leche, of Chester, dated 1614.[2]

In the name of God, Amen, the 13th Oct. 1614. I William Leeche of the City of Chester, vintner.[3] My body to be buried in the parish church of St. Brides in the City of Chester or elsewhere at the discretion of my executors in a decent and seemly manner. Item whereas heretofore William Mordant late of Okelye co. Bedford, Esq. deceased, and Agnes his then wife, did by their Indenture of lease bearing date the 15th Augst 19 Elizabeth [1577] demise unto me certain messuages, cottages, lands &c. situate in the Manor, Lordship, or Hamlet of Hargraue within the parish of Neston in Wirhall co. Chester, for the term of 50 years from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel next after the date of the said Indenture, which lease and all my term in the said premises was afterwards by me and my son in law Thomas Boothe (according to an award of William Aldersey and Edward Dutton of the City of Chester, Aldermen, bearing date the 27th Feb. 5 James [1607]) conveyed and assigned to Thomas Trafford Esq. and Robert Whitbie of the said City

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[1] The will of Lawrence Swettenham of Somerford, gent., proved in 1597, has been printed by the Chetham Society, Vol. iii., N.S., *p.* 131 [J. P. E.].

[2] From the High Legh Deeds, 1884 [J. P. E.].

[3] There is a previous will of the above named William Leeche, dated 29th June, 1611, in which he is described as William Leeche of the City of Chester, mercer. There is mention of "the Children of my daughter Iane Lother"; "Iohn Leeche wch was the sonne of my brother Richard Leeche"; "my kinsmen William Leeche geñ & Charles Leeche m̃chaunte."

(Signed) Willm Leche.

Witnesses
Peter Drinkwater
William Drinkwater
Thomas Price.
1611.

Red seal bearing a chevron between two cross-crosslets fitchee in chief and a serpent nowed in base.
Crest (?) a small bird.

[J. P. E.]

of Chester, Alderman, to such uses as by the said award and the said conveyance thereupon made are limited, that is to say, to the use of the said Thomas Boothe and his assigns during so many years of the said term as the said Thomas Boothe and Anne his then wief should live, upon such considerations as in the said award &c. are expressed, and immediately after the decease of the said Thomas Booth or of the said Anne (which Anne is now dead) then to the use of me the said William Leeche, and to the use of such of my children or friends to whom by my last will I should devise the same for the residue of the said term. I do hereby devise the same to Thomas Whitbie of the City of Chester, gent., and Peter Drinckwater of the same City, Ironmonger, to their own proper use, paying therefore yearly after my decease during so many years as then shall be unexpired of the said term, such legacies and annuities as are hereafter limited, that is to say, £10 to my son Iohn Leeche for his life, if the said term shall so long continue, and also £4 yearly to Mary Ball my daughter wife of Henry Ball during her life if the said term shall so long continue. Item my will is that if I shall at any time hereafter by any writing under my hand and seal give any annuity to any other person or persons that the same shall be taken as parcel of this my last will, and shall be paid accordingly by the said Thomas Whitbie and Peter Drinckwater or the one of them. Provided always that the said annuity so to be given, together with the annuities hereby already devised, do not exceed the yearly sum of 40 marks per annum. Item I hereby further will that the said Thomas Whitbie and Peter Drinckwater shall yearly pay for the said premises after my decease during the residue of the said term, the yearly rent of £5 reserved by the said Indenture of lease to such person as by the same Indenture it ought to be paid, and also discharge all such duties &c. as after my decease during the said term shall become payable. My will is that in case of any suits concerning the said premises, the said Thomas Whitby and Peter Drinckwater shall deduct out of the said annuities so much money as they shall necessarily expend in the defence of any such suits. Item the residue of all my goods &c. (after my debts, legacies, and

funeral expenses are discharged) to the use of my executors. And of this my last will I nominate and appoint the said Thomas Whitbie and Peter Drinckwater my executors.

[Signed] by me Willm Leche.

Sealed &c. in the presence of
Ed. Whitby Robt Bennett Willm Allen
Thomas Allarton Ric: Hobs.

The Will of Robert Mather, of Westleigh, co. Lanc., Yeoman, dated 1617.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 29th May 1617. I Robert Mather of Westleighe co. Lanc. yeoman. My body to be buried in Christian burial. First I give to William, John, Marie, Anne, and Jenett Ptington Children of John Partington of Tildisley, 2s. 6d. apiece. And to Christopher, Elizabeth, Ellin, and William Manne children of James Manne of Tildisley aforesaid every one 2s. 6d. And to Jenet, Katherin, Margrett, Elizabeth, and Anne Liptrott, daughters of William Liptrott of Westleigh aforesaid, every one 2s. 6d. And to Richard Hawghton, Nicholas and Anne Hawghton, children of James Hawghton, late of Arburie, deceased, every one 2s. 6d. And to Symon Mather, Geffrey Mather, Robert, John, James, and Ellin Mather, children of Geofrey Mather my brother, £5 equally to be divided amongst them. To Symon Mather alias Morton my base son, £13. 6s. 8d., and if he die before he attain the age of 14 years I give the same sum of £13. 6s. 8d. to the said six children of my said brother Geffrey Mather in manner aforesaid. I give to Elline Mather alias Morton my base daughter £6. 13s. 4d., and if she die before she come to the age of 14 years, then I give the same sum of £6. 13s. 4d. to the said six children of

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[1] From deeds in the possession of W. Ecroyd, Esq., of Nelson, near Burnley [J. P. E.].

my said brother Geffrey Mather in manner aforesaid. To Anne Mather now wife of the said Geoffrey Mather, my sister in law, £5. To Robert Whittell alias Brownlowe, William Manne, and Robert Whittell whom I am godfather vnto, every one 12d. And to my said brother Geoffrey Mather I give my trunk, and to the said Anne my chest. I give all the residue of my goods &c. besides the discharging of my funeral expenses and legacies, to the said Geoffrey Mather my brother, and I make the said Geoffrey Mather my brother and James Sorrowcoulde my true and lawful executors.

Sealed &c. in the presence of [The mark of Robert Mather.]

[Signed] Geffrey Mather Junior
Robert Mather Jũ
John Whittells.

Proved at Chester by the executors 4 July 1618.

The Will of Henry Nutter, alias Parker, of the Carrhale, co. Lanc., Yeoman, dated 1617.[1]

In the name of god Amen the nynthe daye of Julye Anno R. Rĩs Jacobi Angl etc. decimo sexto et Scotie quinquagessimo primo fidei defensor' &c annoq; dñi 1617 I Henrie Nutter als Pker [Parker] of the Carrhale in the countie of Lancaster yeoman sicke in bodie butt of good and pfecte memorie, I give god thankes for it, doe make this my last will and testamt in mann and forme followeinge, ffirst I give and bequeathe my soule into the handes of allmightie god, my maker trustinge onelie throughe his mcie and the merittes of Christ Jesus to bee saved, Itm I give my bodie to Christian Buriall att the discretion of my executors hereafter named, Itm Concninge all my goodes Chattles and Cattles

[1] From deeds in the possession of W. Ecroyd, Esq., of Nelson, near Burnley [J. P. E.].

debtes moveable and unmoveable of what nature and in whose handes soeu I doe give and bequeathe the same in manm and forme followeinge that is to saye all my debtes unto me oweinge by anye psonn whatsoeu and my funerall expences beinge trulie paide out of my whole goodes then I doe devyde the remaynder of all my said goodes chattles and cattles and debtes into twoe Equall partes, thone hallffe I give unto Elline my wyffe accordinge to the custome of the Cuntree and the other hallffe of my saide goodes Chattles Cattles and debtes I give unto Lawrence Townley of the Carrhale in the countie of Lancaster Esquire, And lastlie I doe hereby constitute ordayne make and appoynte the afforesaide Lawrence Townley and Elline[1] my wyffe executors of this my last will and testam^t hopeinge they will pforme the same as my trust is in theym In witnes whereof to this my last will & testam^t I haue putt my hand and seale the daie and yeare first aboue written.

Witnesses hereof [No signature.]
Robert Townley Juř
Richard Towneley Juř
Robart Whalley Juř.

Proved 9 Jan. 1618[-19] in the Court of the Rural Deanery of Blackbourne by Lawrence Townley the executor.

The Will of Richard Legh, of Swinehead, co. Chester, Gent., dated 1618.

In the name of God, Amen, the 18 July 1618. I Richard Leighe of Swinhead co. Chester, gent., being of good and perfect memory and reasonable good health. My body to the earth whereof it is made.

As concerning all my household goods, husbandry imple-

[1] Over Ellen's name is written the word *renunciavit*

ments &c. I bequeath the same and every part thereof to Mathew Leigh, gent., now my son and heir, for the better enabling him to keep hospitality, he the said Mathew discharging all my funeral expences, legacies &c. I give and bequeath to Lawrence Leigh my son, 10s. in full discharge of his filial portion, being otherwise provided for. I give and bequeath to Jane my daughter, wife to Edmond Latham, gent., £10, in full satisfaction of her filial portion, being preferred in competent manner formerly in marriage by me with the said Edmond Latham. I give and bequeath to her four children, Edmund, John, Mary, and Margaret Latham, £5 each. To Thomas Leighe, gent., my brother, all my apparel whatsoever.

I give and bequeath towards the reparations of the Parish Church of Rawstorne 10s., and to the poor of the same parish 20s. to be distributed at the discretion of my executor or overseer. And of this my last will I constitute the said Mathew Leighe my son, sole Executor, and desire my worshipful nephew Thomas Leighe of High Leighe, Esq., to be supervisor of the same.

RICHARD LEIGHE [Signed.]

Witnesses hereof,

Thomas Leighe	Peter ffurnehead
George Cooke	Thomas Leighe the yonger
Henry Bradhurst	John Rawstorne.

Proved before David Yale, Doctor of Laws, the 14 Jany 1618[-19], and administration granted to the sole executor.

The Will of Alice Orte, of Walton-in-le-Dale, co. Lanc., Spinster, dated 1620.[1]

In the name of God, the 2 Sept. 1620. I Alice Orte of Walton in lee Dale co. Lanc., spinster. "My bodie to be Buried in the pishe Churche yorde or Chappell of the Lowe

[1] From the Agecroft collection, Poulton Deeds, No. 85 [J. P. E].

nere the Buriall place whear my ffather and mother lieth." I give to Thomas Cowper son of John, my great pan. To Edward Cowper brother of the said Thomas, my great pot. To the three children of the said John Cowper, Thomas, Edward, and Elline, the half of my pewter dishes equally amongst them, and the other half thereof to be at the disposition of my executors. I give to the said John Cowper my best silver spoon. I give to the said Thomas Cowper my least silver spoon. And my mind is that my executors shall have the disposing of the other three silver spoons. To Thomas Cowper son of James Cowper, 40s. To Thomas Orte 6s. 8d. To Thomas Dyconson 4s. To Jane Procter 2s. To Elline Parke 12d. All the residue of my goods and chattels after my funeral expences and legacies are discharged, shall be divided into three equal parts, one part to remain to the said John Cowper, the second part equally amongst the said three children of the said John Cowper, and the third part to be distributed at the discretion of my executors. I make the said John Cowper and William Balshawe, Executors of this my last will, and humbly request my "neese" Thomas Cowper to be supervisor hereof.

Debts owing unto me.

Inp^{r}mis William Balshawe and Elizabeth Cowper 8^{li} 3^{s} 4^{d}.

Witnesses hereof—John Balshawe
James ffarclough.

Proved by the Executors before John Morres, M.A., Dean of the Deanery of Blackborne, the 7 Nov. 1620.

The Will of Thomas Legh, of Hallom, Esq., dated 1623.[1]

In the name of god amen I Tho: Legh of Halhom Esq being in perfect memory &c. My body to be buried yf I dye

[1] From the Lyme Deeds, Box S.I., No. 13 [J. P. E.].

in Chest: or Lanch: at Winwick or Disley w^{t} the licence of my worthy br. Sr. P. Legh kn. Whom I much respect. I most kindly entreate my choice beloved neph: Fran. Legh to bee my sole executor, to him I give all my leases goods & chattells, wishing & most earnestly entreating that he will out of them perform these legacies following. First I give to his noble fath. my br. my velvit cloake. Item to my niece Bold & my niece Sherburn the two trunks in my chamber at Halhom & the stuff in them to bee divided by his discretion betwene them. Item to my sister Lathom the ring whose posie is W^{t}in Advised . . . . admits no change. Item to my neph: Tho: Lathom fiftie pounds. Item to Dugles Chapel by Perbold xx^{li} praying the good old parson of Standish my old maister & the parson of Ecleston to do their best to roote out popery & do good & not to set them selvs too much of the . . . . of this world but to strive to winn soules to god wch is their best function. Item to Whitley Chapel in Budworth parish xx^{li} towards the maintenance of a preacher or schoole or both. Item to Dasberie church towards the maintenance of a preacher or schoole or both xx^{li} wishing & most earnestly entreating Sr Richard Brook that as his fath: & hee having had the tythes a long continuance & the parishioners comformable yf this worthy deed of agreement might be made by him Mr Daniell & the Vertuous widows Mrs Brooke & Mrs Ashton, who hath benefit & do give help now yearely. I give a gold ring wch was Mr Leghs sealing ring to my special frend Mr Hary Bradshawe of Marple. To my servants in liverye (named) x^{s}, the other three servants is my house v^{s} apiece.

Dated xijth day of October. 1623.

[Signed] THOMAS LEGH.

[Entirely autograph.]

Sealed in the presence of
John Dande Edw: Creswell.
Geo: Bowdon

[Proved 3 Nov. 1626.]

The Will of Margerie Higson, of the Parish of Whitegate, co. Chester, Widow, dated 1623.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 22 Oct. 1623. I Margerie Higson of the parish of Whitegate co. Chester, widow, being weakened by sickness yet of perfect mind. My body I do commit to the earth to be decently interred in Christian burial at the parish church of Over. And as concerning my worldly goods I give them to the world to be disposed of as follows. First I give and bequeath to my sister Margaret 10^{s} in money, and to her son John Nightgale £3. I give to the poor of the parish of Over (except Wetnall and Olton Loe) also to the poor of the parish of Whitegate (except Darnall), £20, which sum Mr Thomas Manwaringe of Marton Sand oweth me, and my mind is that the churchwardens of either parish shall take and receive the same money either by love or by law, of the said Thomas Manwaringe, and divide the same sum equally betwixt the said parishes, and to be put forth to the use of the said poor people of either parish by the said churchwardens, and to be a stock for the said poor and the interest thereof to remain to the said poor every year's end. And also the putting forth of the said stock into sufficient men's hands upon good security. And my mind also is that the Vicar of either parish and the churchwardens every year have out of the said interest every one 18^{d} for their pains. I give to the poor people that shall come to the house and place where it pleaseth God to call me away every one a penny, and to every of my godchildren 12^{d}. To Randle Baker son of Richard Baker 12^{d}. To Mary Higson daughter of Richard Higson 5^{s}. To the children of William Higson his brother, every one 12d. To Randle Barker son of Alis Barker, widow, 12d. To Peter Eloms 20^{s} in money. To John Hase and his wife, either 10^{s} in money, and to their servant John Smith 10^{s}. To Thomas Barker of Gavell Greene, one of my executors, all the debt he oweth me. To Raffe Barker my uncle 10^{s} in money. I give more to my sister

[1] Copied into the Whitegate Churchwardens Accounts 1601-1662 [J. P. E.].

Margaret my gown. All the rest of my goods whatsoever I give to my executors hereafter named to dispose of them as they best think good, with all debts, bills, bonds, and any debt that is due to me, they out of the whole to discharge all such legacies, funeral expenses, and to see me honestly buried. I give to Henry Chatterton 12^{d}.

Debts owing to me by bill and bond. Andrewe Burton 10^{s} George Maddocke 10^{s} Raffe Manwaringe 10^{s} William Higson 10^{s} Robert Penketh 10^{s} Robert Cleyton of the Northwich 10^{s} William fforster the younger, 10^{s}, Raffe Nightgale 3^{s} and his mother 2^{s} and his brother Peter 11^{s}.

I make my executors Peter Elloms of Over and Thomas Barker of Gale greene, and my overseer Thomas Baker to see this my last will performed.

Signũ p'dic̃ MARGERIE HIGSON testator̃.

Witnesses—

Henry Chatterton
Mawde Hase wife of John Hase
with others.

Margerie Higson widow was buried at Over the 4th Dec. 1624.

The Will of John Clayton, of Little Harwood, co. Lanc., Gentleman, dated 1625.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 24th January 1624[-5]. I John Clayton of Litle Harwoode co. Lanc., gentleman. My body to Christian burial in the parish church of Blackborne at the discretion of my executors, as near my ancestors and friends as conveniently may be. My debts to be first paid out of my goods and personal estate. Item whereas I stand seised to me and my heirs in fee simple, of and in one capital messuage and tenement with the appurtenances in Upper Wyersdale in the said county, commonly called Lentworthe, and of

[1] From deeds in possession of W. Ecroyd, Esq., 1893 [J. P. E.].

and in divers other messuages, lands &c. in Over Wyersdale aforesaid, to the said capital messuage belonging. Now my will is and I hereby devise the same as follows. First I devise the said capital messuage and all the lands &c. aforesaid, to Thomas Clayton my nephew, younger son of Thomas Clayton my late brother deceased, and his assigns during his life. Remainder to the first and other sons of the said Thomas Clayton, successively, and their heirs male in tail. Remainder to John Clayton elder brother of the said Thomas Clayton during his life. Remainder to the first and other sons of the said John Clayton, my nephew, successively, and their heirs male in tail. Remainder to Edward Clayton of Manchester, gentleman, my brother, during his life. Remainder to the first and other sons of the said Edward Clayton, successively, and their heirs male in tail. Remainder to Rauffe Clayton, gentleman, one other of my brothers, during his life. Remainder to the first and other sons of the said Rauffe Clayton, successively, and their heirs male in tail. Remainder to the right heirs of me the said John Clayton for ever. Nevertheless it is my will that the said Thomas Clayton my nephew, shall within one year next after he shall come to the possession of the said premises cleared from the rent charge now payable forth of the same, pay to my executors hereafter named £300 as my said executors shall appoint, unless they see any just cause to make any abatement thereof, and in default of such payment the said sum shall be raised out of the said premises by my executors. And whereas I did formerly purchase in the name of my said brother Edward Clayton in trust for the use of myself and my heirs, one water corn mill called Lentworthe-Mylne, my will is and I heartily entreat my said brother that the said mill may be enjoyed and used with the said capital messuage and lands. And as touching my personal estate and goods, I give to my said nephew John Clayton all my standing goods, chattels, plate, household stuff and implements of husbandry, within or belonging to my dwelling house at Litleharwood where I now live (my corn and grain and all my cattle and quick goods only excepted). I give to my said nephew Thomas Clayton, all my dead goods and chattels and all implements of household and husbandry at or in my said dwelling house called Lentworthe (all my corn, cattle, sheep,

and other quick goods only excepted). I give to my Allyance Thomas Birtwisley and my niece Margrett his wife in full discharge of her filial portion and all other legacies the sum of £50. To my kinsman and godson George Abbott £10. To my kinsman William Abbott brother of the said George the sum of £30. To their two sisters Margery and Ellen either of them £10. To my kinsman Thomas Whalley £10, and to my godson John Whalley of London his brother £20. To Ellen now wife of Richard Mercer and sister to the said Thomas and John Whalley the sum of £10. To my kinsman and godson Myles Marsden £10. To Margrett and Margery his two sisters, either of them £10. To my said brothers Edward and Rauffe either of them £10, and to my brother William Clayton £20, and to my sister Ellen £10. To John Sharples the younger of Blackborne who married my kinswoman £10. To Mary Livesaye my servant, daughter of Thomas Livesaye of Sydbighte £10. I give all the residue of my goods &c. (my debts and legacies first discharged) to my executors hereafter named. And I constitute and make my said brothers Edward Clayton and Rauffe Clayton Executors of this my last will.

JOHN CLAYTON.

Witnesses—
William Clayton
Gyles Clayton
Henrye Clayton.

[A copy of the will on paper.]

The Will of Sir Gilbert Ireland, of the Hutt, co. Lanc., Knt., dated 1626.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 30th Jany 1st Charles [1625-6] I Sr Gilberte Ireland of the Hutt co. Lanc. knight,

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[1] From the High Legh Deeds, 1884 [J. P. E.].

being aged. My body to Christian burial. I give and bequeath to Dame Barbara Ireland my now welbeloved wife, all my new plate which was made for me by one Hulme a goldsmith, one Chain of gold of the value of 20li or thereabouts, together with all rings, jewels, wearing apparel, chests, and trunks now in her own custody, together with the bedding and all other furniture in the great Chamber at Hale, and also the gelding with the saddle and other furniture belonging thereto, and whereupon she now usually rideth. Item to John Ireland my son and heir apparent, my best horse with all armours and furniture belonging to a Launce and all other armours, with the furniture belonging to the pykes and muskets wherewith I stand now charged, and also all other armours, pykes &c. which in any sort belong to Marshall discipline, and also the great broad silver knife used for a voyding knife at the table, the great horn garnished with silver and gilt, together with all the boards, forms, tables &c. which at the time of my decease shall happen to be at Croton co. Chester, so as he the said John Ireland hold himself satisfied with such legacies as are hereby given to him, and do not go about to infringe or alter the same, or do not put in suit a certain bond of £100 which was at the time of his marriage taken in his name to no other purpose, but to stir up and cause my Lady Yonge to be more open hearted and liberal to him and her daughter in future time, in respect of her former large promises made to me how good she would be to them, and what great gifts she would bestow on them after their marriage, and especially at their going to keep house, And so as he the said John Ireland do confirm all such leases as are heretofore made by me to any of my younger children. Item all the residue of my goods &c. I devise to be divided into three equal parts, the first part whereof I reserve to myself towards the paying of my debts, legacies, and funeral expenses, so as my funeral charges amount not above the sum of £30. The second part thereof I bequeath to the said Dame Barbara Ireland my dearly beloved wife. And the third part to all my younger children, equally to be divided amongst them. And as concerning the residue of my said part of goods, my debts &c. being first paid, I bequeath the same to my said younger children

equally amongst them. And further my will is that whereas I the said Sr Gilbert Ireland at the time of the ensealing hereof stand seised of a good and absolute estate in fee simple to me and my heirs of certain messuages, burgages, lands &c. within the City of Chester, and Manley co. Chester, And of certain messuages, lands &c. in Halewood, Halebancke, and Much Woolton co. Lanc. I bequeath the same to James Massie of Hindley co. Lanc. Esq. and Hamlett Massie gent. son and heir apparent of Richard Massie of Rixton co. Lanc. Esqr and their heirs, to such intent and purpose that they the said James and Hamlett and their heirs shall bargain and sell or otherwise convey the same to any person or persons for the payment of the debts of the said Sr Gilberte, or for the preferment of all or any the younger children of the said Sr Gilberte, as he the said Sr Gilberte shall appoint. And my further will is that the said James and Hamlet and their heirs shall grant or convey to Gilberte Ireland youngest son of the said Sir Gilberte, and to his heirs and assigns for ever, for his better preferment, all that messuage, lands &c. with their appurtenances commonly called Ridleys farme, situate in Hunsterston, Hatherton, and Duddington alias Derrington co. Chester. Item Whereas Elizabeth Countess of Derby as by several notes under her hand aswell for money lent by John Ireland late of Hutt co. Lanc. Esqr deceased, my brother as by several disbursements to others made by her appointment, was indebted to him in several great sums of money, which were conveyed to me for valuable considerations amongst other things by the executors of my late brother John Ireland, I the said Sr Gilberte for the better preferment of my daughter Katherine do bequeath to the said Katherine all such sums of money as can in any wise be gotten from any person or persons by reason of the said several writings. Item I bequeath to the said James Massie two 20 shilling pieces of gold to buy him a ring with. I constitute and make the said Dame Barbara Ireland my welbeloved wife, and Thomas Ireland one of my younger sons my true and lawful Executors.

GILBERT IRELAND.

Sealed &c. in the presence of

Wiłłm Sherlocke Clerke, John Minshull, John Parte, Thomas Gleaue, Robte Whittle.

Copia hec Concordat Cum Testam^to^ p^r^d defte penes Regrum̃ Curie Cons̃ Cestr̃ remaneñ fca Collacoe p me
Edw: Morgell
No^rius^ Pub^ius^

exaiat p me Wm Harding.

xxj° die Aprilis 1641.

Shewed to wytness^es^ on the behaulf of the deff^ts^ at the Castle of Chester & sworne vnto before vs Geo: Bostocke
Da: Speed
Thom: Poole, John Mekeying [?]

The Will of Ralph Clayton, Citizen and Grocer, of London.[1]

[Date torn off—probably 1626.]

I Ralfe Clayton Citizen and Grocer of London. Item I give to the Vicar, Churchwardens, and parishioners of Blackborne in Lancashire where I was borne, the sum of £30 to be preserved and kept for a perpetual stock in money or otherwise to be bestowed in lands, as they shall think most convenient, and that all the issues and profits thereof shall remain for ever to the use of such old and poor decayed parishioners of the same parish as shall stand in most need to be relieved, at the discretion of the said Churchwardens with four or six substantial parishioners yearly. Provided always that the sum of 14s. of the said yearly profits shall be yearly bestowed upon two Bibles of 7s. a Bible to give unto two poor children of the same parish, either son or daughter of any poor man,

[1] From deeds in the possession of Mr. Ecroyd, 1892 [J. P. E.].

that best fear God and are willing to learn, at or about the feast of the Annunciation of our Blessed Lady the Virgin.

[A true copy of so much of the will as concerns the Legacy given to Blackborne.]

The Will of Richard Twisse, of Ashton-in-Makerfield, co. Lanc., Waller, dated 1629.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, I Richard Twisse of Ashton in Makerfeild co. Lanc., waller. My body to Christian burial in my parish church of Winwicke. My debts, legacies, and funeral expenses shall be discharged out of my whole goods, and then my goods shall be divided into three equal parts, two parts whereof shall remain to Margaret my wife, and one part to my son. And it is my will that John Winterbothom and Henry Birchall my brother in law shall have the government of my son's part of goods until he accomplish the age of 21 years, and as concerning my messuage, lands, and tenements, it is my will that Margaret my wife shall have the occupation of them all until John my son shall come to the age of 21 years. And it is my will that the housing shall be equally divided betwixt my wife and my son, and for the land my son shall have the South end and my wife the North end. And for the kiln and kiln yard I assign my whole estate thereof to Margaret my wife. I make my true and lawful executors hereof Margaret my wife, and Henry Birchall my brother in law.

Dated 17 Feb. 1628[-9].

Debts owing by the said Richard Twisse.

To John Ashton and his sons	... ...	6li & the use.
To Elizabeth Derbishire widow	... ...	4li & the use.

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[1] Original in the possession of W. Ecroyd, Esq., of Nelson, near Burnley [J. P .E.].

Debts owing to the said Richard
Hercules Eaton 21s 6d

[The whole of the debts.]

RIC TWISSE

Witnesses—
Thomas Birchall
John Birche.

his ✚ mrke

Proved by the executors before William Lewis, clerk, Rural Dean of Warrington, 9 April 1629.

The Will of Dorothy Helsby, of Chorlton, co. Chester, Spinster, dated 1641.[1]

In the name of God Amen the last day of March in the yeare of our lord god one thowsand sixe hundred forty and one I Dorothy Helsby of Chorleton in the county of Chester spinster daughter vnto Randle Helsby of Helsby in the aforesaid county gentleman decessid doe make and ordayne my last will and testament in manner and forme following That is to say I giue and bequeath vnto Leonard Grantham of the cittye of Chester gentleman and to my kinswoman Penelope his wife and to the heires and assignes of her the said Penelope my house and garden with the appurtenauncs in Chorlton aforesaid wherein I dwell and all my lands and tenemts in the towne and feilds of Chorleton aforesaid which my saide father gaue to me vpon Condicon that they the said Leonard Grantham and the said Penelope his wife my kynswoman shall well and sufficiently mayneteyne keepe and looke to me dureing the terme of my lyfe wth meate drinke clothynge washing and lodging in my said house wherein I now dwell at Chorleton afforesaid Neurlesse I doe hereby giue vnto Randulphe the son of my brother Thomas Helsby of Kingsley gentleman the full summe of fforty pounds to be

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[1] The original in the possession of Thos. Helsby, Esq., April, 1893 [J. P. E.].

payde him out of ye p^rfitts of my said lands when I am buryed. And I bequeathe my soul to God vpon wch Jesus haue mercie and my body to be buryed in the Chapel of Aluonley And I doe hereby reuoke and make voyde all my former and other wills.

[Signed] DOROTHY HELSBY.

Signed sealed published and Declared in the ꝑsence of

[Signed] Tho: ffrodsham Gilbert Gerrard
Eliz^th Chorleton Brydgett Helsby
Joane Boothe Thomas Burges his ✠ m̃k

Will of Thomas Moulson, of Wheelock, co. Chester, Esq., dated 1648.[1]

"In the name of God Amen I Thomas Moulson of Wheelocke in the County of Chester Esquire being somewhat weake in body but of ꝑfect memory praised be God Doe Comitte my soule to God my heavenly father in the meritts & Death of my Redeemer Jesus Christ, And my body I Comitte to Christian buriall and to be interred in my owne Ile in the ꝑishe Church of Sandbach in such Decent maner as is meete And I Doe make my last will and testament in Maner and forme following ffirst I giue and bequeathe vnto my Nephew Thomas Steephens All my Manors Mesuags lands tenem^ts & other hereditam^ts whatsoever To haue & to hold the same to him & to the heires males of his body lawfully to be begotten he or they Paying all such legacies and somes of Money as are heerein, or in the scedul heerevnto annexed given and bequeath[ed] expressed or menc̃oned to the seuall & respectiue ꝑsons either in this will or in the scedule or codicill annexed ꝑticulerly nominated And for default of such Issue Then to the vse and behoofe of Edward Steephens brother of the sayd Thomas & of the heires

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[1] Enrolled in the Hustings of Common Pleas, Guildhall, London, 1663 [J. P. E.].

males of the body of the said Edward lawfully to be begotten chardgeable in maner & forme as afores^{d} And for default of such Issue then To the vse and behoofe of Nicholas Ranton sonne of my sister Ranton and of the heires males of his body lawfully to be begotten chardgeable as aforesayd And for Default of such Issue to the vse and behoofe of Thomas Ranton annother sonne of my s^{d} sister Ranton & of the heires males of his body lawfully to be begotten chardged & chargeable as afores^{d} And for Default of such Issue to the vse and behoofe of the right heires of me the sayd Thomas Moulson for evermore. And Moreover my Mynd and will is and I doe giue devise and bequeath vnto my loveing Mother the yerely some of fiftye pounds p Annũ to be Issueing and goeing out of All my sayd lands aswell purchased lands as others Dureing hir life att the fouer most usuall & accustomed ffeast Dayes in the yeare the ffirst payment thereof to beginne at wch of the same feasts shall first happen after my death. And Alsoe I giue and bequeath vnto my brother John Steephens Esqr the some of tenn pounds and to his wife the like some of tenn pounds, vnto Alderman Kenericke tenn pounds & to his wife tenn pounds vnto my cozen Mr Seriant Turnor tenn pounds & to his wife tenn pounds vnto my Cozen Edward his sonne x^{li} and to my Cozen Anne Calthropp Daughter to the said seriant the like sume of tenn pounds, vnto M^{r} ffrancis Rowland tenn pounds & to his wife tenn pounds vnto my Cozen Thomas Aldersey of Spurstow tenn pounds & to his wife tenn pounds to my Cozen Raven tenn pounds & to his wife tenn pounds vnto my uncle Huxley fiue pounds to his sonne fiue pounds & to his wife fiue pounds & fiue pounds to his grandchild vnto my Cozen Kynaston fiue pounds & to his wife fiue pounds To my Cozen Thomas Edwards tenn pounds & to his wife tenn pounds vnto my Cozen Bassnett fiue pounds & to his wife fiue pounds to my Aunt Amey Key forty pounds over and besids hir threescore pounds wch is in my hands, vnto my Cozen John Jones fiue pounds & to his wife [fiue] pounds, to my servant Richard Alexander fifty pounds to my servant Richard Roberts thirty pounds vnto my Neece Anne Steephens tenn pounds To my Neece Rebecka Ranton & to hir too sisters Anne &

Elizabeth tenn pounds a peece to eꝫy of them, vnto my cozen Lee of Darnall fiue pounds To the poore of the ꝑishe Church of Sandbache tenn pounds towards [the] increase of theire stocke, vnto the poore of Namptwiche tenn pounds to be sett forth att the oversight of the Maior John Bromhall Mr Sabbath Church & Mr Thomas Noden To Mr Scinderland If he preache att my fuñall fiue pounds And I doe giue and bequeath to my sayd Cozen Thomas Steephens All my goods Catells Chatells plate Jewells & household [stuff] of what kynd or nature soever he paying the sayd respectiue somes of Money & Alsoe paying my debts if any be att the tyme of my death And my mynd and will likewise is that If the sayd debts legacies or somes of money can not be had & raised out of my ꝑsonall estate That my brother the sd Mr John Steephens shall sell the mesuag and lands in London for the speedy payment thereof And I Doe ordayne And Appoint my sayd brother Mr John Steevens Executor of this my last will and testament And If he Dye that then his Executors shall sell the sayd mesuags & lands in London If need soe require And I Doe Appoint my sayd Cozens Mr Thomas Aldersey Mr Willam Raven & Mr Thomas Edwards overseeres of this my last will and testament And I doe heereby Rennounce Revoke & frustrate All former or other wills or testamts And doe publishe & declare this to be my last will and Testament In wittnes whereof I haue heerevnto put my hand and seale this sixt Day of September in the fouer and twentith yeare of the Raigne of our souꝫaigne Lord Charles by the grace of God over England &c. Annoq; dñi 1648.

[Signed] THO: MOULSON.

Signed sealed and published in the pñce of
[Signed] Tho: Aldersey
Jo. Jones
Tho: Minshull
Rih. Alexander
Witt Meakin."

"This last will was shewed vnto Georg̃ Read [and] Richard Roberts."

"The 24th of September 1648

Memorandum that I beinge in perffect memory doe bequeath ffurther Item to John Prachett & Margery his wiffe of Namptwich ffiue poundes a peece: It: to Richard Proudeloue my bayliffe ffiue poundes: It: to Willyam Symonds the sume of ffiue poundes: It: to Henery Marstone my Cooke the sume of ffortie shillings: It: to my maide An: Willamson twentie shillinges It̃ to my man Anthony Howcrofft twentie shillings: It: to my boy Will: Walker ten shillinges: It: I giue to Docter Anthoney Marbury the sume of tenn poundes and the bond that he stands bound vnto me towards his Charges: It̃ I giue & bequeath vnto George Reade the sume of tenn poundes and to be paid ffor all other thinges & charges that I haue caused him to disbursse ffor my vse: It: to the parrish of Sandbeach the sume of two poundes & tenn shillinges to be dispossed of at the day of my buriall by the Churchwardens & wth the assistance of 3 or 4: of the ablest of the parish and to be disposed of in the towne of Sandbeach In wittnesse whereoff I haue herevnto put my hand & seale the day and yeare aboue written beinge the fouer and twentieth yeare of our lord kinge Charles by the grace of God over England &c. the 24th September Anno Domi̇ 1648.

[Signed] THO: MOULSON.

Signed seald & published to be a Codecill to be anexed to the will of the wthin named Thomas Moulson Esqr in the ꝑsence of

[Signed] Richard Roberts
George Reade
Rich. Alexander."

[Armorial seal.[1]]

"This Codicill was shewed vnto George Read and Richard Roberts."

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[1] An oval seal. Arms: a chevron between three mullets, Esquire's helm and mantling. Crest: a griffin segreant, in the dexter claw a mullet.

"Memorand That this will was inrolled in the Hustings of Comon Pleas in ye Guildhall On Munday the ffirst Day of June in the ffifteenth yeare of the raigne of our Soulaigne Lord King Charles the Second &c. [1663].

Rawlins."

The Will of Mary Aldersey, of Foulk Stapleford, co. Chester, Widow, dated 1675.[1]

"In the name of God Amen on the Sixteenth day of July In the twenty sixth yeare of the Raigne of oure soveraine lord Charles the second by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland Ffrance and Ierland Defender of the ffaith Anno Domi 1675. I Mary Aldersey of Ffoulkstableford in the County of Chester widow beinge somewhat distempred in body but of good and perfect memory God's holy name be thearfore praised yett Caleinge to minde my mortallity, beinge well ashewred that all flesh is borne to dy and the time thearof most vncertaine do thearfore make and ordaine this my last will and testamente for the Avoydinge of ffuture sutes and trubls in manner and forme followinge and first and principally I Comend my soule into the hands of almighty God hopeinge setfastly [stedfastly] through the merits of Jesus Christ my blesed saviour and Redeemer to be one of his Electt and to haue a ioyfull Resurection att the last day, and my body I Comend to the Earth to be decently buried att the discreshon of my Execut^s heareafter named and as for that worldly Estate whearwith the lord hath blesed mee I giue and bequeth the same in manner and forme followinge and first I giue and bequeth vpon my sonn John Aldersey my whole Estate as itt stands performinge such things as shall be mentiond hearafter and my sonn John Aldersey is to pay out of the said Estate twenty two pounds to Henry Moors of Warton for the vse of Jesse Okell of the said toune

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[1] From the Aldersey Deeds [J. P. E.].

sonn to Robert Okell and to Samuell Okell tenn shillings and to Samuell Smith tenn pounds hee beinge sonn to William Smith whearof fiue pounds of itt is to be paid as soone as neede shall Require and the other fiue pounds and the twenty two pounds which is left to the said Jesse Okell is to be paid att the End of three years or sooner if hee marry, and if the [said] Samuell dy before the tearme of seaven years be Expired then Henry Moors haueinge bond for itt of the said John Aldersey is to dispose of itt for the vse of Robert Okells Children likewise hee is to pay to his brother Hugh Aldersey the summ of fiue pounds within the Compas of halfe a yeare and to pay to my maid Mary Hilton tenn shillings whenever shee Cales for itt and to Rose Okell all my wearinge Cloaths onely Exceptinge theose that I weare Every day and I leaue to Henry Moors a paire of gloues of halfe a crowne price to be giuen him, and the aforsaid Henry Moors is to take bond as is mentiond before and the said John Aldersey is to giue him such security as he liketh or Elce the said Henry Moors is to be in full powre to sell as much of the goods for the Raisinge of the sũms mentiond and the aforesaid John Aldersey is to pay vse for the said moneis the two hindmost years accordinge to the statute and I leaue to be giuen to my sister Amy Warburton one shilling.

Memorandum that I do hearby accordinge to the powre giuen mee by my late husband in his last will Charge the lands in Hargreave in the saide will mentiond with the paymente of the summ of ffowerscore pounds which ffowrescore pounds I do hearby giue and apoynte to be paid to my Cosen Thomas Aldersey of of [*sic*] the City of Chester wittnes my hand

MARY ALDERSEY. [Signed.]

In the presence of
Elizabeth Buckley Mary Hilton Edward Humston.

This copy was truely Examind and Compard by vs witnes our hands

Robert Okell
Jesse Okell.

The Will of John Partington, of Manchester, Chapman, dated 1677.[1]

In the name of God, Amen. I John Partington of Manchester co. Lanc. Chapman. My body to the earth. First it is my will that my debts and funeral expenses shall be paid out of my personal estate. And out of the rest of my said estate I give the sum of £700 to be by my Executors hereinafter named laid forth so soon after my decease as conveniently may be in the purchase of lands &c. of a good estate in the law in fee simple in the name and to the use of my Executors and the survivor of them and their heirs for ever, to the intent that the same lands &c. after purchase thereof as aforesaid, may be settled and assured by my said Executors to two, three, or four honest persons such as my Executors shall elect for that purpose and to their heirs for ever, to the following uses, that is to say, To the use of Mary my now wife for her life. Remainder to the heirs male of the body of me the said John Partington by the said Mary my now wife begotten or to be begotten. Remainder to the heirs of the body of the said John Partington by the said Mary begotten or to be begotten. Remainder to the right heirs of me the said John Partington for ever. And my will is that the interest of the said £700 before such purchase as aforesaid shall be payable to the said Mary my wife. I give to my daughter Sarah Partington by Mary my first wife, £450, And to the child my now wife is in child with, the sum of £400, when 21, with benefit of survivorship. I bequeath to my brother Hobson Partington for the use of his children now living £100. I further give to my Executors hereinafter named, the sum of £100, to the intent that they or the survivor of them shall within one year after my decease, purchase lands &c. in fee simple in the name and to the use of my Executors and the survivor of them and their heirs for ever, to the intent that the same lands &c. after such

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[1] From the Partington Charity Deeds, Manchester Corporation Records [J. P. E.].

purchase may be settled and assured unto six honest and able persons inhabiting within the town of Manchester, such as my Executors or the survivor of them shall elect for that purpose, To the use of my said Executors, and the said other six persons so to be elected as aforesaid, upon trust, that from such purchase and settlement, all the clear yearly rents &c. of all the said lands &c. so to be purchased as is last mentioned, shall for ever thereafter yearly be faithfully and wholly disposed of towards the succour and relief of such poor, aged, needy, and impotent people as for the time being shall inhabit and dwell within the town of Manchester, and by the discretions from time to time for ever of the overseers of the poor of the said town of Manchester shall be conceived to have need thereof. And my will is that when there shall be only two of the said persons so to be elected as aforesaid in full life, then the same two surviving persons shall enfeoff other six honest and sufficient persons inhabiting within the said town of Manchester, and their heirs and assigns of the premises so to be purchased as is last mentioned, upon the like trust, and the like order to be kept for ever, when and as often as there shall be only two feoffees alive. I bequeath to Mr Henry Newcome the elder, £20. To Mr Henry ffinch £20. To Mr Robert Eaton £5. To Mr Henry Pendlebury £5. To William Ladds eldest son and heir of Mr William Ladds of the Three Kinges in Cheapside, London, £50 to be paid to him upon balancing of the accounts betwixt Mr Ladds and me with my Executors. I give to Nicholas Stratford D.D. Warden of the College of Christ in Manchester, £5, and desire him to preach my funeral sermon. To my fathers in law Mr John Tildeley and Mr William Williamson or either of them 20s. to buy them mourning rings, and I give to all my sisters in law 20s. apiece to buy mourning rings. To my brother in law Mr Richard Percivall and my loving friend Thomas Evans £10 apieee, and 20s. apiece more to buy them mourning rings. To my daughter Sarah Partington all the linens that I had in my first wife's time. All the residue of my personal estate I bequeath to Mary my now wife. And I hereby constitute and make the said Mr Richard Percivall my brother in law, and my said loving friend Mr Thomas Evans, Executors of this my last

will. I leave the tuition of my said daughter Sarah Partington and the management of her portion to my said father in law Mr William Williamson, and desire my Executors to pay the same portion into the hands of the said Mr Williamson within two years after my decease. Dated the 15th Sept. 1677.

Sealed &c. in the presence of John Eller, James Redich, Nathan Leech.

[Copy of the will.]

Endorsed on the back—

"The Second part of the Tytle to the Lands or yerly Rent of 5l payable out of Lands in Little Lever."

The Will of Richard Sharples, of Little Lever, co. Lanc., Yeoman, dated 1678.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 8 Oct. 30 Charles II. 1678. I Richard Sharples of Litle Leaver co. Lanc. yeoman, being aged and somewhat infirm in body. My body to the earth from whence it was taken. Whereas I have sealed and executed a deed of feoffment bearing dated the 2 Nov. 1671, whereby I have settled all that and those my capital burgage, mansion, or dwelling house and outhousing, fulling milne or walk milne, and all those several closes commonly called the Bankes, the Bottomes, the Stable Field, the Highmost Field, and the Midlest Field, situate in Litle Leaver aforesaid wherein and whereupon I now dwell, to several uses in the said deed expressed, only reserving to myself in the said deed power to limit the said lands &c., to such uses (in case my daughter Anne wife of Joshua Dixon, die before the said Joshua, without issue of her body) as by my last will or other my deed lawfully executed shall be declared. I do therefore hereby declare that it is my will and in the aforesaid case I devise the said lands &c., with their appurtenances to the use

[1] From the Partington Charity Deeds, Manchester Corporation Records [J. P. E.].

of my daughter Mary, and the issue of her body lawfully begotten, always preferring the male before the female, and the elder before the younger, with remainder to the right heirs of me the said Richard Sharples for ever, upon condition that in the aforesaid case the sum of £50 be well and truly paid to the said Joshua Dixon, and that such issue of my said daughter Mary which shall happen to enjoy the same land and premises within 12 months next after entering upon the same, well and truly pay to the rest of the then living issue of my said daughter Mary lawfully begotten £100. And whereas I have secured jointly with my son in law William Crompton the payment of several sums of money amounting in all to £80 being his own proper debts. It is my will that the said sum of £80 be raised and paid out of my lands and personal estate by my Executors in manner hereinafter appointed (that is to say), that the sum of £40 be raised out of the yearly issues of the lands whereof I stand seised in fee, viz. out of the yearly issues of that messuage now in the possession of Raphe Leaver, John Leaver, and Katterin Pollett, and of two closes called the Great Common and the Little Common, and of four other closes called the Furthest Mythom, the Midle Mythom, the Delfe Hills, and one little plot or parcel of land lying at the River side, and of one other cottage or dwelling house now in the possession of Robert Pollitt, James Pollit and Mary Crompton, and of several other closes commonly called the Masters Crofte, the Rough Mythom, and the Little Mythome, all which said housing and parcels of land lie in Litle Leaver aforesaid. Provided always and I hereby devise the three closes abovementioned called the Midle Mythom, the Delphe Hills, and the little plot lying at the river side to my brother James during his life, upon condition that he pay the yearly sum of 20s. and all lays, taxations &c., imposed on the said closes and on that other close called the Furthest Mythom, which said sum of 20s. yearly shall be employed towards the payment of the said £40, and yearly added to the yearly profits of the other lands until the said sum of £40 be raised and paid as aforesaid, and afterwards to the use of such person or persons who shall have the inheritance of the land according to the devise hereafter expressed. And it is my will that after the sum of £40 hath been raised as aforesaid,

then I devise the said messuage now in the possession of Ralph Leaver, John Leaver, and Katterin Pollit, together with the new barn and those two closes called the Great Common and the Little Common with their appurtenances to my daughter Anne and the issue of her body lawfully begotten, always preferring the male before the female and the elder before the younger. Remainder to my daughter Mary and her issue in like manner. Remainder to the right heirs of me the said Richard Sharples for ever. And all the residue of the lands before mentioned, viz. that cottage now in the possession of Robert Pollit, James Pollit and Mary Crompton, and the said closes called the Furthest Mythome &c. after the discharge of the said sum of £40, I devise to my daughter Mary and her issue in manner aforesaid, with remainder to the right heirs of me the said Richard Sharples for ever, the said close devised to my brother James only excepted during his life, on the conditions aforesaid. And lastly it is my will that my debts and funeral expences be deducted out of my personal estate, and also £40 out of it to discharge the remainder or other moiety of my son in law William Crompton's debts for which I stand engaged as aforesaid. All the residue of my personal estate I bequeath to my daughter Anne. And of this my last will I nominate my two sons in law Joshua Dixon and William Crompton, Executors.

Sealed &c. in the presence of, John Mason, John Mason, John Sharples.

A true Copy examined 5 March 1679, by Tho. Lever
Geo: Haugh.

Endorsed on the back—

"ye copy of Ri: Sharples will ye originall being agreed to be kept by Jo^n Sharples betwixt Jos: Dixon & Wm Crompton May 7th 80, at J. Grimshaws."

The Nuncupative Will of Mary Travers, Spinster, of Horton, co. Chester, dated 1684.[1]

Memorandum that the 4 Sept. 1683 Mary Travers, spinster, daughter of John Travers late of Horton co. Chester, gentleman, did in the presence of those whose names are underwritten declare her last will and mind to be That whereas the sum of £400 is charged upon the lands in Horton aforesaid for the portion of her the said Mary, and part thereof is already raised, she the said Mary did declare that it was her mind and purpose to dispose of £150 parcel of the said £400 in manner following, that is to say, that her four aunts Elizabeth Aldersey, Anne Aldersey, Mary Aldersey, and Martha Aldersey, spinsters should have £20 apiece, and her cozens Henry Travers and Thomas Travers both of Chester, £10 apiece, and her five cozens the sons and daughters of her uncle Thomas Aldersey Esq., 20s. apiece, and her four cozens the daughters of her cozen[s] Robert Aldersey and William Aldersey both of London, Gent, 20s. apiece. That all her uncles and aunts should have rings, and that her mother Rebecca Travers, widow, should have a ring of double the value of the former, and that her grandmother Aldersey should have a ring of like value with her mother's. That there should be a Dole dealt to the poor of about £3. And all the rest of the said £400 her will was that her brother John Travers gent., if he lived to attain the age of 21 years, should have the whole advantage of it, but if he died before the said age, that the same be divided between her said four aunt Alderseys. And that her said uncle Thomas Aldersey should be her sole executor and to see her decently buried.

Witnesses—Anne Edwardes, George Huxley, John Aldersey.

Proved at Chester the 9 April 1684 by the executor.

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[1] From the Aldersey Deeds [J. P. E.].

The Will of Elizabeth Chantrell, of Warrington, Widow, dated 1689.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, the 29th Oct. 1689. I Elizabeth Chantrell of Warrington co. Lanc. widow. My body to the earth. And whereas by a certain Indenture of Assignment made between me the said Elizabeth Chantrell of the one part, and Sir Richard Brooke of Norton co. Chester, Bart. by the name of Richard Brooke son of Henry Brooke of Norton, Esqr and Richard Legh of High Legh in the said county Esqr by the name of Richard Legh son of Henry Legh of High Legh Esqr of the other part, there is a proviso made, reserving power to me the said Elizabeth to charge my cosen Thomas Legh hereinafter named with any sum of money not exceeding the sum of £50 by any writing under my hand and seal in my life time. Now I the said Elizabeth Chantrell do by this my last will charge the said Thomas Legh with the several legacies hereinafter mentioned to be paid within the space of two years, if the said Thomas Legh shall receive so much money of the tenement mentioned in the said Indenture of Assignment. I bequeath to my sister Goulborne £10. Item to my sister Katharine Legh £10. Item to my cosen Jane Legh of Swinhed 20s to buy her a ring. Item to my cosen Dorothy Legh 20s. Item to Cosen Anne Brooke 20s. Item to Cosen Mary Legh 20s. Item to my cosen Thomas Goulborne 20s to buy them rings. Item to my cosen Jane Legh of Swinhed my best gown. Item to my landlord Nicolls 10s. Item to Samuel Haughton 10s. Item to Netham Goulborne 10s. And as concerning my household goods &c. and all other my personal estate I bequeath the same to my said Cosen Thomas Legh.

the marke of the said
Elizabeth E C Chantrell.

Signed, sealed &c. in the presence of
John Bent
George Patten

the marke of
Mary M W Wood.

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[1] From the High Legh Deeds [J. P. E.].

The Will of Catherine Legh, of Warrington, dated 1693.[1]

25th March 1693.

I Katherine Legh of Warrington co. Lanc. spinster. My body to the earth to be decently interred in the Chapel that belongs to Bewsey within the Parish Church of Warrington. Impr Whereas my cousin [*i.e.*, nephew] Thomas Legh of Manchester is indebted to me in the sum of £42 my will is that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid out of the said sum. Item to my two nieces Dorothy and Mary Legh the sum of £6 to be divided equally betwixt them, and to be paid out of the said sum of £42. Item to my cosen Thomas Goulborne of Chester the sum of £3. Item to my cosen Mr Henry Leigh, of Leigh, 10s, and to his sister Nanny 10s. Item to Mrs Kinaston 10s; to Elizabeth Helsby 10s; to George Petten and James Barrett 5s equally betwixt them. Item I bequeath the sum of 30s to be distributed amongst the poor such as I gave verbal directions about. Item I give to my cosen Adam Holland the sum of 20s, and to Samuel Horton 5s, and to Nathan Goulborn, 2s. 6d. Item to John Bent 40s in consideration of rent, and for house trouble. Item whereas my cosen Mrs Jane Legh of Swinyard owes me the sum of £12, I give unto her the said sum. Item to my Niece Legh of High Lee my broad box marked K L Item I give my little cabinet to my little cosen Betty Legh of High Legh. Item I give my locket to my little cosen Mary Legh of High Legh her sister. Item I give to my loving friend Sarah Bent my new stuff hood. All the rest of my wearing apparel and household goods I have given to my servant Mary Woods as appears by note under my hand bearing date the 11th March 1692[-3] attested by John and Sarah Bent to that purpose, and moreover do now give to the said Mary Woods the sum of £2 to be paid to her within one month after my decease out of the sum of £20 which is now due to me from Mr Cook and the rest of Sir Gilbert Ireland's

[1] From the High Legh Deeds, East Hall [J. P. E.].

Executors. Item the remainder of my little estate I bequeath to my cosen Thomas Legh of Manchester, whom I hereby constitute my sole Executor.

[Signed] K LEIGH.

Signed, sealed &c. in the presence of,
William Crane Samuell Lyon Peter Aspinwall.

The Will of Alice Billinge, of Euxton, co. Lanc., Widow, dated 1724.[1]

In the name of God, Amen. I Alice Billinge of Euxton co. Lanc., widow, being aged and infirm in body. I will that my debts (if any) and funeral expences shall be paid. I give to my son Robert Billinge that fire grate standing in the Parlour Chamber. I give to Katharine his wife, 5s. I give to Elizabeth daughter of the said Robert and Katharine, 5s. To Alice another daughter of the said Robert and Katharine, 5s. To Margery Almond my servant 20s. All the residue of my temporal estate I hereby direct shall be divided into two equal parts, one part whereof I bequeath to Alice, Ellen, and Margaret, daughters of William Almond of Shevington in the said County, yeoman, by my daughter, deceased, to be equally divided amongst them when 21 or married, with benefit of survivorship and the other part I bequeath to John, Thomas, and Alice, sons and daughter of Edward Cooper of Walton in le Dale in the said County, yeoman, equally between them in manner aforesaid. And of this my last will I hereby appoint the said William Almond and Edward Cooper, Executors.

Dated 2 Dec. 1724.

ALICE + BILLINGTON
her marke.

Sealed &c. in the presence of,
[Signed] Wm Oakenshaw Will Smith J : Whitley.

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[1] From Agecroft collection, Poulton Deeds, No. 93 [J. P. E.].

The Will of Peter Shaw, of Leyland, co. Lanc., Musitioner, dated 1733.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, I Peter Shaw of Leyland co. Lanc., Musitioner. First I devise all that my moiety of a messuage and parcel of ground and lands of inheritance with the appurtenances, in Farington co. Lanc., by me purchased from Fleetwood Legh Esq., deceased, to Robert Winstanley of Farington aforesaid, miller, and Roger Mawdesley of Leyland aforesaid, innkeeper, to hold to them and their heirs in trust for the use of Hannah my loving wife during her life, and after her decease to sell the same, and apply the money thereby raised as hereinafter mentioned. And further I give all those my several leaseholds in Farington aforesaid, held by lease from Richard Crooke late of Macclesfield co. Chester, Esq., deceased, and also my leasehold in Leyland aforesaid where I now dwell, held by lease under James Cowling gent., and William Cowling his son, and all my estates therein, to the aforesaid trustees, in trust to permit my said wife to enjoy the same during such term in the said leases as my said wife shall live, and after her decease to sell the same and apply the money thereby raised as hereinafter mentioned. I give my household goods and personal estate to my said dear wife. And concerning the moneys to be raised by sale of my lands of inheritance and leaseholds, I direct the same to be paid equally amongst my sons and daughters William Shaw, Peter Shaw, Margaret now wife of John Baxtonden, Mary now wife of Henry Mair, and my daughters Elizabeth Shaw and Hannah Shaw, deducting out of my son William's part £10 which I have already given him, £12 out of my said daughter Margaret's part, and £4 out of my said daughter Mary's part. I hereby nominate and appoint my said loving wife Hannah Shaw sole executrix.

Dated 25 April 1733.

Witnesses—
John Ditchfield
Richard Whittingham
Wrightington Woosey.

PETER SHAW
his ✚ mark.

[1] From deeds in possession of Wm. Ecroyd, Esq., of Nelson, near Burnley [J. P. E.].

The Will of Jane Aldersey, Widow, of Spurstow, dated 1742.[1]

In the name of God, Amen, I Jane Aldersey widow and relict of Robert Aldersey late of Spurstow co. Chester, Esq., deceased. First my will is that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid out of my personal estate, and that my interment be performed in such a manner as I by my own handwriting shall direct. And as concerning all those my several messuages, cottages, lands &c. in the several townships of Middlewych and Newton near Middlewych co. Chester, wherein I have any estate, I devise the same with all the rents and profits thereof to my good friends Josepn Lancaster of Warrington co. Lanc., attorney, and Richard Craven of Spurstow co. Chester, Junior, and their assigns for the term of 500 years, upon trust to permit and suffer my beloved sister Mrs Ann Hulse to enjoy the same during her life. Remainder to my nephew John Hulse and his heirs male. Remainder to Ralph Hulse son of my said sister Ann Hulse and his heirs male. Remainder to my nephew Thomas Hulse and his heirs male. Remainder to my nephew William Hulse and his heirs male. Remainder to my nephew Robert Hulse and his heirs male. Remainder to my nephew Randle Hulse and his heirs male. Remainder to my two nieces Jane and Ann Hulse equally and jointly, and to their heirs male. And my will is that if my nephew Hugh Hulse third son of my aforesaid sister Ann Hulse be living and return again into England, then after the decease of my said sister Ann Hulse and my said nephews John Hulse and Ralph Hulse and their issue male, the said trustees shall permit the said Hugh Hulse and his heirs male to enjoy the said premises. Remainder to my own right heirs for ever. I give to my dear sister Mrs Ann Hulse £192. 1s. 6d. To my nephew John Hulse £20. To Mrs Sarah Grantham sister to my late cousin Daniel Aldersey £4. To the younger children of Mr

[1] From the Aldersey Deeds [J. P. E.].

William Watts late of Newton aforesaid, one guinea. To my cousin Elizabeth Markham of Tarporley one guinea. To my niece Kynaston 10s. To my late cousin Kendricks four daughters each 10s. To the younger children of Mr Cooper late of Middlewych, clerk, £10 equally amongst them. To the sister of Mrs Sarah Carrington late of Chester who suffered by the Stable we rented being fired 40s. To Mary the wife of Joshua Woods of Brombrow in Worral my two long Cloaks and Capphoods, my gray broadcloth Cloak, and £4. 8s., provided she is not paid the said sum in my lifetime. To my niece Mary Edwards the sum of £5. To my servant Samuel Stubs £10. I leave all the old family pictures which are or were in the great parlour at Spurstow, and mine and my late dear husband's picture to be kept and remain in the great parlour at Spurstow from generation to generation. All the residue of my goods &c. with the large table in the house in which William Badcock of Spurstow now dwells, after my debts, legacies, and funeral expenses are paid, I bequeath the same to my nephew Samuel Aldersey, clerk, whom I hereby constitute and appoint sole executor of this my last will.

Dated 10 Aug. 1742.

[Signed] JANE ALDERSEY.
[Armorial seal.[1]]

Signed, sealed &c. in the presence of,
[Signed] Tho: Weaver
George Owen
John Owen.

The Will of Ellen Crouchley, of Preston, co. Lanc., Widow, dated 1746.[2]

In the name of God, Amen. I Ellen Chrouchley of Preston co. Lanc., widow. First I give to George Crouchley

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[1] An ornamental shield bearing a plain cross between four birds.

[2] From the Agecroft collection, Poulton Deeds, No. 96 [J. P. E.].

my son (after payment of my debts and funeral expences) 1s. out of my personal estate. And the residue of all my personal estate I devise to Ellen Crouchley, my daughter. I hereby constitute and appoint Mr John Cooper of Walton sole executor hereof.

Dated 16 Augst 1746.

[The Mark of Ellen Crouchley.]

Sealed &c. in the presence of,
Wm Rider
Arthur Shepherd
Jo. Cal .[Torn.].

Proved the 18th Oct. 1746 by the Executor, before The Rev. Randal Andrews, Clerk, Surrogate of William Stratford, Doctor of Laws, Commissary in and throughout the whole Archdeaconry of Richmond and Diocese of Chester.

The Will of Thomas Leigh, Rector of Stoke Bruerne, co. Northampton, dated 1749.[1]

"In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Leigh Rector of Stoke Bruerne in the County of Northampton, do make my last Will & Testament in manner following, In the first place I committ my Soul to the hands of Almighty God, and my Body to the Earth trusting & hoping in ye infinite Mercies of God for a Resurrection to Eternall Life thro' the alone Merritts & mediation of my Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As to my Worldly Estate which it has pleased God to bestow on me, I will as follows, I Give and desire [*sic* for devise] my Estate of Land at Northwood in the Township of High Legh in ye Parish of Rostern in Cheshire to Thos Leigh the Second Son of George Leigh of Oughterington

[1] From the High Legh Deeds [J. P. E.].

Esq. and to his Heirs Exrs Ads & Ass^s for ever. I Give and desire my Tenement in Ollerton near Knutsford in Cheshire to Saml Leigh the 4th Son of Geo: Leigh of Oughterington Esq. and to his Heirs Ads & Ass^s for ever. I Give and desire my Est of Land on the side of Hill Cliffe in Appleton in Cheshire unto Thomas Case the Second Son of my Niece Mrs Margaret Case and to his Heirs Ads and Ass^s for ever. I Give to Eliz: Leigh the Eldest Daũr of my Nephew Geo: Leigh of Ough: Esqr the Sum of 300^l, and to his Eldest Son John Leigh ye Sum of 50^l. I Give to Eliz: Case ye Eldest Daũr of my Niece Case ye Sum of 300^l, to Jonathan Case Esqr her Eldest Son ye Sum of 50^l. I Give to my Niece Clayton ye Sum of 100^l and to Katherine, George, Sarah, W^m, Ann and Hugh Hindley Leigh 50^l each viz: 300^l. To my Niece Parker's 2 Daũrs, & her Son W^m I give 50^l a piece, and to each of ye ffive Daũrs of my Nephew Houghton I Give 50^l. I do hereby appoint and make my Niece Mrs Sarah Clayton of Liverpoole ye Sole & Lawful Exix of this my last Will and Testament, revoking all other Wills that have been formerly made by me All my Mortgages, Goods, Chattles, Credits, & psonal Est I Give to my said Niece Sarah Clayton at whose expence I wo^d have all my Funerall Expences & other Lawful Debts to be discharged, I order all my Manuscripts of what kind soever they are to be burnt by my Exix upon ye ffirst Sight of 'em I Give to the Poor of the parish of Limm in Cheshire ye Sum of Twenty Pounds to be distributed amongst 'em by the Two Churchwardens of the said Parish by and with the Consent and Approbation of the Owner of the Estate at Ough: I Give to the Poor of Appleton in the Parish of Budworth in Cheshire the Sum of 5^l and the Poor of Ollerton near Knutsford in Cheshire the Sum of 5^l and each of these Charities to be distributed by the direction of my Nephew Leigh of Ough: I Give to my Servant Eliz^th Atkinson as some requitall for her Care and Industry in ye Managem^t of my Household affairs ye Sum of 30^l. I w^d have all my Lawful Debts, Funeral Expences & Legacies to be discharged out of my personal Estate which his [*sic*] Chiefly in my Niece Claytons Hands. In Wit whereof I the said Thomas Leigh the Testator haue hereunto as to my last

Will and Tesť Set my hand and Seal this 29th day of April in ye Year of Our Lord 1749.[1]

THO: LEIGH (Seal.)

Signed, Sealed & Published by ye Tesť & for his last Will and Testamt in our Sight who in his Presence Subscribed our Names as Ws thereof.

John Webster
Timothy Smalley."

"Note.—There is a Third Witness to the Will of which this purports to be a Coppy, but the Clerk by mistake Omitted it. The Originall Will is in the hands of Mrs Sarah Clayton of Liverpoole the Executrix.

J. L. Ld 5th May 1759."

Administration of the Effects of Anna Maria Legh, dated 1752.[2]

Thomas by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of all England and Metropolitan To our welbeloved in Christ George Legh Esqr the lawful husband of Anna Maria Legh late of the parish of Rosthern co. Chester, deceased, greeting. Whereas the said Anna Maria Legh lately died intestate having whilst living and at the time of her death goods &c. in divers dioceses or Jurisdictions, by reason whereof the administration of all the said goods &c. doth appertain wholly to us. We being desirous that the said goods &c. may be faithfully administered, Do therefore by these presents grant full power to you to administer the

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[1] This will was never proved in any Court of Probate, only acted upon. This appears from subsequent proceedings and pleadings. [J. P. E.]

[2] From the High Legh Deeds, East Hall [J. P. E.].

said goods &c. and to make a true and perfect Inventory of all the said goods &c. and to exhibit the same into the Registry of our Prerogative Court of Canterbury on or before the last day of December next ensuing, and also to render a just account thereof on or before the last day of June 1753. Given at London the 2nd June 1752.

Wm Legurd
Pet: St Eloy } Deputy Registers.
Hen: Stevens

Extracted by me
G: Gostling
Proctor for the
Administrator.

Appendix.

The Will of Sir John Ireland, of Hale, dated 1411.[1]

In Dei Noïe Amen ego Johes de Irlond miles condo testamentū meū in hunc modum. Inpmis lego aïam meam Deo be marie virgini et omnib; sctis et corpus meū ad sepeliend in capella de Hale. Et volo q^d omnib; debitis meis psolut' una cum expens' factis circa sepult' corpis mei pdci residuū omnium bono; et cattallo; meo; distribuat' inp Margiam uxem meam et Johannem et Katinam filias meas in auxil' maritagio; suo;. Et ad istud testamentū meū bn et fideliť exequend ordino et constituo pdict' Margiam uxem meam et Dūm Thomā de Burton Capellanū meos executores. Et Dauid de Hulme, Thomā de Sotheworthe, cticum, et Willm Kendale, Capellanū, supuisores testamenti mei pdti. In cuius rei testiōm hiis psentib; sigillū meū apposui. Dat' quartodecimo die Maii anno regni Rege Henrici quarti post conquestū Anglie duodecimo.

The Will of Ralph Haselhurst, of Golburne, dated 1512.

In dei noïe Amen the viij^th daye of May In the yere of o^r Lord God a thowsand fyue hundrethe & xij^th. Item, that I Rauff Hasselerst of Goburne & of the pishe of

[1] From the original in the possession of Robert Ireland-Blackburne, of Hale Hall, Esquire.

Wynwycke am sycke in Bodye & hole of mynd and memorye thankeꝑ be to God therefore I doe order & make this my last wyll & testament in man̄ & forme folowynge fyrst I bequethe my sowle to allmyghty God & to all the companye of heaven & my Bodye to be buryed in the church of Wynwycke. Item I gyff & bequethe to the churche of Wynwycke towardꝑ the glasynge of the glass wyndowes xx[d]. Item I gyff & bequethe to my sonne-in-lawe Rychard Houghton one Baye mare. Item I order & devyde my goodꝑ into iij ꝑtꝑ one for myselfe & another for my wyff and a nother ꝑt to my ij doughterꝑ Elizabeth Hasselerst & Elyn̄ Hasselerst ecolye [*equally*] betwyxt theym bothe. Item it ys my wyll that Elyn Hasselerst shall haue the overplus of my ꝑte of goodes that be laft ouer my Buryall Dettes Legacies dyscharged be sydes her owne ꝑte. Item, yt is my wyll to lett yt be known to yow all that George Asmoll my sonne-in-lawe & Alyes Hasselerst my doughter haue had of Mr Rauff Hasselerst father to the aforesayd named Alys Asselerst [*sic*] haue had all her chyldꝑ part of goodꝑ savynge her ꝑt of iiij Oxen & ij horses & one mare & this is the last ꝑt of her goodꝑ that she cañe haue. Item yt is my wyll that yf yt shall please God that my wyff have any chyld that yt shall [have] yt chyldꝑ ꝑt of goodꝑ as my other doughterꝑ haue. And yt shall haue yt ꝑte of my owne goodꝑ euen as Elen hath besydꝑ yt owne ꝑte. Also yt is my will yf God shall send me a sonne that then my doughterꝑ shall not be hurt of theyr chyldꝑ ꝑte of goodꝑ But that then my wyff & my sonne shall make my doughterꝑ part of goodꝑ as good as the where [*they were*] at the makynge of this my last wyll of my wyffes cost & my sonnes together And then yt ys my will that Elizabethe my doughter shall haue her part of my goodꝑ anynest he[r] suster Elyn besydes her owne ꝑte Also I order & make my true & Lawful executorꝑ of this my last wyll & testament Elizabeth my wyff & Elizabeth my doughter they ij to see that this my last wyll be truely ꝑformed & kept as the wyll answer me at they last day.

The Dettꝑ that I doe owe

Imp̄mis: to Robert Kyghley ... ... xx[s]

Item:	to Rychard Houghton	...	...	xxx^{s}
Item:	to Wyllyam Hopworthe	...	...	xix^{s}
Item:	to Wyllyam Gandye ...	...	...	v^{s}
Item:	to James Peycocke ...	...	...	v^{s}

Dettę owynge to me

Impmis:	Mr Wyllyam Aston	...	...	xl^{s}
Item:	Nycholas Alen	...	...	iij^{s} iiij^{d}
Item:	Elsabethe Healde	...	...	ij^{s}

I order & make Supervysor & over syer of this my last wyll Rychard Houghton he to see that yt be pformed & kept.

Witnesses hereof

Sr Thomas Chesshryre curett of Wynwycke. Wyllyam Taylyor clarke. Wyllyam Heworthe John Onessworthe with others.

[No probate.]

The Will of Robert Newall, of Northwich, dated 1519.

In dei noĩe Amen, duodecimo die Martii Anno Dñi Millmo quĩgen^{mo} xix^{mo} I Robt Newall of the Northwich hoall of mynde and sycke in Body make my testament ĩ thys mañ as foloyth first I bequeth my Soule to Almighty God and to o^{r} lady Sanct Mary and to all the holly Company of hevyn & my body to be buryed in the chapell of Witton and my best [*sic*] to a mortuarye I devise & bequeth to Elyñ my wyff and my children by the said Ellyñ lawfully begoten the ȳme of my howse and off all my other takynge wthin the Cowty of Chest and all my goodę and catallę movable and unmoveable & dettę what so eũ they be. Also I orden & make Ellyñ my wiffe my true & lawful executor to pfo^{r}me this my laste will & to dispose for my soule as she shall thinke cõvenyent In wittnes wherof to this my last wyll I have sette my seall the day & yere aboue said. These

being Witneses to the sealinge off this testamẽt. Robt Wynyngton John Wynnynton Edward Bradshaw John Kocker Ric̃ Foxholts and other Dyuſse.

The Will of Thomas Cooke, of Eastham, dated 1520.

In dei noïe Amen Anno Dm̃ m^mo^ ccccc^mo^ xx^mo^ post festũ Assumpcõis B̃te marie virginis Ego Thomas Cooke sanus mente quis eger corpor̃ Condo testamentũ meũ hũc modũ In primis Do et lego meam aiãm Deo q̃ c̃auit et redemit eam suo pcioso sangñe b̃te marie et omnibꝫ sanctꝭ et meũ corpus sepeliṛ in Cimiterio ecclie de Esthm̃ Itm̃ lego meũ optimũ aïat esse mortuariũ. Itm̃ lego ecclie de Stoycke quadragintos denarios et totidem denarios ecclie de Bacforth. Itm̃ do et lego Dño Ric̃o Baguley decĩ solidos p aiã mea ad celebrandũ unũ trentalẽ. Itm̃ do et lego Alicie mea sorori meã optimã zonam et sex aïalia tr̃ annoꝭ. Et Margere sorori mea alia sex aïalia. Silĩt pdt̃a Alicia, Margerea, et Willmus meus frat habebũt portionẽ reꝭ patris et matris singularit̃ p se undecĩ m̃cas sex solidos et octo denarios et fr̃ meus . . . hẽbit nouẽ libras apud dies reddituros ut par̃ endẽturaꝭ int nos specificet̃. Itm̃ do et lego Alicie et Margaree pdce totã lanã filatã et non filatam. Itm̃ lego et do Helene Ball et Em̃ Ball duas vitulas unius Anni. Itm̃ lego et do Thome Fox unã tuniculã. Residuũ oĩm meaꝭ reꝭ do et lego Willmo fratri siue germano meo (ex seg̃is meis faciendꝭ) ordino et fac̃o et constituo Willm̃ Qwytteff [*Whytteoff*] Johem Hanlay meos executores ut hoc meũ testamentũ et ultimã voluntatem compleant sc̃dm̃ vim et illi^9^ effectũ Et supvisores Mr̃m Ric̃ũ Bũbury Ar̃ et Thomã Ric̃son. In cui^9^ rei testimõn huic psent̃ testamento meo Sigillũ meũ apposui hiis testibꝫ. Dño Henrico Clederow Dño Rc̃o Baguley Johe Hanlay Thomã Ric̃son Johe Bryscar Myles Coycke, Thomas ffox cũ multis aliis.

The Will of Dame Anne Molyneux, of Sefton, dated 1520.

In dei noïe Amen decimo octavo die mēsis Octob⁄ Anno Dm̄ M° ccccc^mo vicesimo Ego Anna Molynex nup uxor Thome Moleneux militę vidua compos mentę saneq3 memorie atq3 egrotus corpe condo testm̄ meū in hūc modū Inprimis do et lego aiām meā dei patre ōipotenti et beate marie virgini corpusq3 meū sepiliend in ecclia poch de Sefton in mausolio dicti viri mei sūmi [?] altari ibm. Deinde volo q expensa funalia meo gradui conveniencia et cōgrua pcipiāt^r et disponant^r de bonis meis per manus dicti executoris mei. Residū vero omn̄ bono⁄ et catall debitis creditorit3 meis satisfactę et solutę executor' meo pdcō ad euis solā discrescionē et ordinacioem̄ disponend. Ordino facio et constituto pdilcū filiū meū Edwardū Molenex Rectorē ecclie poch de Sefton hui^9 testamēt' mei executorem amantissimūq3 filiū meū Willimū Molenex militē dicti testamēti mei supvisorem ad hoc psens testm̄ meū in ōib3 fideliť exsquēdū et psuplēd. In cuius rei test' huic psenti testamento Sigill meū apposui, hiis testibus, Homfrido Hert Briano Morecrofte cap^no et Hugone Dauid [?] et aliis. Dat die et anno pdict.

The Will of Margery Deane, of Bowden, dated 1521.

In dei noïe Amen I Margeř Deyne make my will & testament in this man̄ ffirst I bequeth my sowle to almyghty God our Lady Sanct Marie & to all Seyntę & my body to Cristen buryall w^thin ye church of Bowudon. Also I bequeth my best goodę to the church for my mortuary & principall moř oū I gyff & bequeth to Sr James Deayn my son̄ all the residue of my goodę in qwois handę or what place thay be Apon this condicōn that the said Sir James shall well & truly content & pay all my dettę as he shall unswař befor' almyghty

God att the great day of Jugement Also I orden make the forseid Sir James my executor & supvisor of this my will & testament. Into wittnes wherof I the said Margeř Deyñ have put to my seall the xx^t day off August ī the yeř of our Lord a thowsand v hundreth xx^ti and oon thes beyng Wittnes Sir Edward Leghe, Rauff Dene, & oȳ.

The Will of Randle Pickmere, of Middlewich, dated 1525.

In dei noïe Amen the xxvij^th day of Aprill in the yeř of our lord God a thowsand cccccxxv^th I Rondill Pykmeyr[1] of the Mydilwiche of holl mynd and remẽbraunce seyng the perell of deith neght make my last will in mañ and form^e foloyng That is to wete I geve & beqweth my soule to Almyghte God owr lady Seynt Marye and all the Seynte in heyven Itm I will that my body be buryed in the church of Seynt Michaell of the Medylwech Itm I geve and bequeth my best whik [quick] goode to the pson of the said church in the name of my mortuarie Itm I geve and bequeth to Agnes my doghter the wyf of Richard Damport of Whellthrogh a wiche howse lyeing in the Mydilwich neghe the Wiche Broke And an inset howse withe the appteunce lying in Bredur home otherwise called Parme to the said Agnes and hir heyers geñall, and for want of suche issue to Willm Pykmeyr and his heyers malez and for want of such issue to Rauff Pykmeyř and his heyers malez and for want of suche issue of theym to the heyers malez next of the said Ronduls blod. Itm̃ I geve and bequeth to the said Agnes my doght^r and hir heyers geñall the take and ꝑme that I have of a wiche howse lying at the Hyppyng stones for certen yeres which I have of Olyuer Bateson by entendures. Itm̃ I will that my said

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[1] There was a family of Pickmere of Hulse who were freeholders in 1578, but they do not appear in the 1580 *Visitation*. This will in Mr. Earwaker's Index (Vol. ii. *Rec. Soc.*) appears as of Randle Pickering.

doght^r Agnes and her heyers shall paye yerely duringe the ꝑme of the said howse to the churchwardens of the said Mydiłł wiche toward the church werk vj^s viij^d Itm̃ ·I geve and beqweth to Wiłłm Pikmer' all the takys of fee ferme of Wiłłm Croxton and hys heyers lying in Newton to heys heyers malez and for want of such issue to Rauff Pykmeyr̃ hys heyers malez except an Inset howse with a garden now in the holdynge of the said Ric̃ Damport and Agnes his wyff wheche I wyll that the said Agnes shall haue for terme of hir liffe payinge therfor yerely to the said Wiłłm Pikmeyr̃ iiij^d Itm̃ I geve and beqweth to Rauff Pykmeyr the howse that I dwell in duryng my terme except the chamber̃ benethe the fyr̃ next the strete whech I will that Elyñ Johnson shall haue for terme of her lyff. Itm̃ I geve and beqweth to the said Elyñ Johnson the thridd part of all my Instewe [?] of howsehold. Itm̃ I geve and beqweth to Wiłłm Pikmeyr̃ all myn Instewe of howsholld whech is Irne ware. Itm̃ I geve and bequeth to Richard Damport the youngẽ vj silv̄ sponys and the high borde covert. Itm̃ I geve and bequeth to Agnes my doght^r and Marget hur doght^r the residue of all my goode except my corne wheche I will Elyñ Johnson shall have the thridd ꝑte off all whether it be in howse or in feld. Itm̃ I geve and bequeth to eu̅y doght^r that Rauff Crosse hath unmaried vj^s viij^d and to his ij sones unmaried to ather iij^s iiij^d. Itm̃ I will thet Rauff Pykmey^r haue my ij wyche howses whereof I have the holdyng of my Lord of the Vale Ryall duryngc my terme. Itm̃ I geve unto John Pykmeyr̃ all my lomes [?] in myñ awen smythe and xx^s of money.

Itm̃ I geve and bequeth to the blessed seynt Elyñ of Witton and her church werke xx^s. Itm̃ I geve & bequeth to by a sute for the high auter of Seynt Michaell for the prest to syng w^t xx^s. Itm̃ I geve and beqweth to Wynnsforth Bridge iij^s iiij^d Itm̃ I geve and bequeth to the Beth lawme iij^s iiij^d Itm̃ I will that all my landez & tacke w^t all man̅ avauntage & ꝑfette and occupac̃ons therto belonging stand & remayn to the use of myn executors to fulfill this my last will oñ yer̃ next aftur my deꝑtyng. And to the my last will I haue constitute set & ordeynt Richard Damport & William Pykmeyr̃ to be my true & feithfull executors with the ou̅sight off Sir John Crosby my gostely father In wittenes

wherof to the my testiment and last will I have set my seale thees being wittnesses John Crosby clerke and my gostlely father, Richard Blakeborne, Rauff Byrchwood Wiłłm Vernon with many others.

[Proved at Chester 22 June, 1527.]

The Will of Thomas Haward, of Neston, dated 1525.

In dei noïe Amen the viijth day of Januarii in ye yeř of o^{r} Lord god MCCCCCXXV I Thomas Haward hole in mynd & secke in body make my last will & testament in maṅ and forme foloyng. First I beqweth my sowle to allmyghtye God to his mother o^{r} blessed lady and to all the Sancte of hevyñ and my body to be buryed in the Church yord of Neston and my best beast to be my p̊ncipall or mortuarye. Also I beqweth halff my go[illegible] and catallz to Gilbart Haward that is to say the halff of money corne & cateł, And also I beqwethe to ye said Gilbart my grettest pott my Jacke and sallett my plogh and my cartt. And I will that Elizabeth Anyon schall haue ye oů sight & ordyng of the said Gilbart and ye forsaid Goodez and catell to hym beqwethid. Also I beqweth to ye said Elizabeth Anyon ij shette ij coůlette, a blankett & x^{s} in money also a kow and vj busshellz of barley. Also I beqweth to Wiłłm Anyon a kow and iij schepe. Also I beqweth to Thoms Helcoke a kow and iij schepe. Also I beqweth to S^{r} Wiłłm Hesken vj^{s} viij^{d} and iij bushell barly. Also I beqweth to Alice Anyon halff of ye residew of my beastez & schepe & a pott. Also I beqweth vj^{s} viij^{d} toward ye bying of a vestment, and to amenditt att ye saying of ye said S^{r} Wiłłm. Also I beqweth to Thoms Anyon v busshellis of barley. Also I giff and beqweth to Edmůd Elcoke an ox that he hath in his handez. Also I giff and beqweth to Henry Waryng v^{s}. Also I beqweth to Saint Martyn a hyve of beene to ye kepyng of a light befor hym. And to y^{is} my last will & testament to be truly p̊formyd exequutid & fulfilled in all

thyngez I doo constitute & make Thoms Anyon & Edmūd Elcoke my execut^ors and Sr William Hesken to be oūseer. And if thei will nott be said by hym then the said Sr William to take a mon att his pleasuř. In witnes of all the p̄missez Sr Willm Hesken p̄est, Ric Russell, Robert Hawke and oȳ moo were p̄sent & callid to yis my last will, yeven the day & yeř aboue wrȳten.

[Proved — February, 1525-6.]

The Will of Ottiwell Houghton, of Ormskirk, dated 1527.

In the Name of God Amen the xxviii^th day off October the yere of owr Lord god mcccccxxvij^th I Otuell Hāghton orden and make my testament in this wyse In first I giff my sowle to Almyghty God to owr Lady and to all sentę off hevyn and my body to be buryed w^thin the church of Ormyskyrke Also I gyve my best goodę to be my pryncipall for my sawle. Also I wyll that Hugh my son haue all my purchest landę to hym & to hę Ayers for eūl. Also I wyll y^t Katȳn my wiff haue & reyceue yerely [for] terme off hyr lyff xi^s off lawfull money of England of my purchest landis payd by the handez off my son Hugh. Also I gyve to the said Katȳn my wyff thre cofurs oñ kow oñ bedde which she lyeth in. Also I gyve to Owr Laydes werkę att Ormyskyrk ij^s. The resydue of my goodes not beqwethed I giff and beqwethe thaym to my son Hugh afořsaid. And also I orden & make Katerin my wiff and Hugh my son my trew and lawfull executors.

In witenes whearof to this my p̄rsent testament I have putto my Seall these beyng wittenez, Sir John Devyas Vicar off Ormyskyrk, Sir Rogl Burschogh with oth^r Yeven the day & yeř affořsaid.

Probat' ī ecc̄ coll Sc̄i Johis Cestr'
xxviij° die Nouemb^r.

The Will of Thomas Witter, of Tarporley, proved 1528.

In the Name of God Amen the xx^th^ day of December I Thoms Wyttur hoole of mynd & god Remembraunce seke in body make my testament ī this mañ ffyrst I bewethe my soule to God Almyghti to o^r^ Lady & to all the saintę ī heyvyn my body to be buryed in the chauncell off the ꝑich church of Torpurley. Also I bewethe for my mortuary according to the custome of the Cuntrie. Also I bewethe to a ꝑist to pray for my Soul a yere vij markez. Also I wyll that oñ Wyndow ī the northe yle be glased on my ꝑp^r^ goodys & costę. Also I wyll that Elyñ my wyffe have my howse wth all the app^r^tynauncez therto belonging, and after the decesse of the said Elyñ my wyff I will that Wiłłm my sone have hit for the terme of his liff and aftur the decesse of the s^d^ Wiłłm I wyll that Elyñ my doghtur have hit for hyr lyffe & so to Jane Agnes Elizabeth and to who hit shall plese god my wyff ys cõseyved wth untyll the yere be complete and fulfilled according to my tacke my body buryed and all thingę accordyng to the same ꝑformed the Residue off all my goodę I do giff and beweth to Elyñ my wyff & my children equally to be dyuyed according to the custome of the Cuntrethe. And that this my last will be ꝑformed & fulfilled I do orden constitute & make my true & lawful executors Wyłłm Wyttur Doctor of Decrees & Elyn my wyff thesse being ꝑsent Wiłłm Burghall ꝑist John Welde John Robynson Wiłłm Wethall with other mowe.

[Proved in the Church of S. John Chester xxiij April, 1528.]

The Will of Charles France, of Aspull, dated 1530.[1]

In Dei Noïe Amen Año Dñi MDXXX° et xij° die Maii Ego Carolus Frañce de Aspull ꝑoch de Wigan Compos mẽtę

[1] Apparently only a fragment.

eger in corpore facio Testam meū in modo sequeñ In ꝑmis aīam meā comendo altissimo Deo Creatore meo et Div̄e virgini Marie totiq3 Curie celesti Corpusq3 meū sepeliend in Cimiterio Om̄m̄ sc̄orum de Wigan Itm̄ I make my wife, John France my sonne, Willm Wodd and Willm Aynscho, my faithfull Executorꝭ and Thom̄s Gerrard of Ince Esquier Oꝯseer of this present will that hit may be fulfilled after my mynd to the pleasure of God & wealth of my Soull. Itm̄ I wyll that my wyfe haue my house duringe her life and after her decesse I will that John France my sonne haue hit. Itm̄ I will that John France Robte Fronce Willm Fronce & Ric. Fronce haue the Title and Right of a Tenement lyeinge in Westhaughton callid Gorton house accordinge to the custome of the towne of Haughton aforesaid. Itm̄ I brought home and my will fulfilled I will that the Residue of all my goodꝭ be devided amongis my wife and Children. Itm̄ I bequeath to Ric̄ Fronce my sonne iijs iiijd. Itm̄ to Robte Fronce my sonne iijs iiijd. Itm̄ to Sr Adam Plat xijd.

The Will of Thomas Ball, of Boughton, dated 1530.

In the Name of God Amē ye xviijth day off Septēber in ye yer off or Lord God Mocccccc° & xxx° I Thomas Ball of Boughton seke ī body & holle of mynde et remēbranse dredynge & abydynge ye uncten tyme off deth make my testament & laste will ī man & forme as followeth first I will & bequeeth my sole to allmighty God & or lady Sanct Mary & to all ye holy cōpany off heuē & my body to be buret wthin ye church off ye monasterry off Sanct Wurbur ī Chest Also I will yt Ric̄ Ball my son have xxs ou & beside his ꝑte off goodꝭ to be payd at his need by ye appoynting of my executors & ousers Also I will yt Will Ball my son have ye heffur which was his one afortyme Also I will and beqwethe to Cicile Balle my doghter ye heffur whych is make [? for *mate*] to ye said heffur beqweth to ye said Willm to goo forthward wt her Also I giffe & beqweth to Thomas Ball my

son my Jacke Salet & bill Also I giffe unto Johan Ball my sust^{r} v^{s} to be payd at ye oũsyht off my said executors & oũsears Also I giffe and beqweth toward ye coũynge of Sanct Anthonies alt̃ w^{t}in ye Pych Church of Sanct Oswalde ī Chest̃ iij^{s} iiij^{d} to be payd by my said executors Also I will & it is my full mȳd Will & Intent that Elyn my wiffe have all ye rest of my gude & catelle moueable & unmoueable & wth ye same shall finde brynge upe & kepe my cheld̃ wth meite drynke cothis and other necessaries durynge ye tyme & as long she kepis hyr wido if yay so long can agre toged̃ and iff she be maret or y^{t} thay my said child̃ & she can not agre toged̃ then I will & it is my mynd that ye same my gude and catelle except before beqwethed and except, shall be deuided in ij ꝑtes equaly accorydyng to ye lawe ye oñ ꝑt thereoff to my said wiffe and ye other ꝑte ye^{r}off to my said child̃ at ye poyntyng & oũsyht off ye said Elyn my wiffe & ye said Ric. Ball my son whom I make & cōstitute my exectores & off Wiłłm Ball my brod̃ & John Bradburne off Chest̃ who I desyre & orden to be oũsears of ys my laste will & testamēt well & truly to be execut & ꝑformet accordinge to my tru Intent & meaning therein at thayr discretions. Thes beyng ꝑsent & wyttenes of y^{s} my last will Sir John Ball ꝑst my gostly fad̃ John Bradburne Myles Coke Wiłłm Ball & others.

The Will of Katherine Browne, of Chester, dated 1544.

In the Name of God Amen the xiijth of Ap'll Año 1544 I Catarin Browne widdowe of ꝑfitt mynde and memorie make my Testament & last will as followithe. First and principallie I betake my soull to Almightie God o^{r} Ladie Saint Marie and all the Holie Companie of Heaven and my bodie to be buried on Saint Maries on the Hill in Chester, Secondlie I will that Thoms Browne sonne of Wiłłm Browne decessed after my decesse have the Tenement or holdinge I now dwelle in and also one of my waines a plowhe iiij^{or} oxen wth other appꝑtiñnce to waine and plowghe and also Coffers beddcases

tables tressels [etc together with] the felde lyeinge w^th^in the Lordshippe of Pulford called the Oldefelde [etc] and I do bequeth to my Sr Henrie Browne [*sic*] a stagge by name called the balde stagge & also two kyne, one of the best & an other of meane sort & also oñ yoke of oxon. Also I bequeath to my sonne Thoms Browne of Dunhm xx^ti^ shepe of the shepcote that is to witt neither of the best nor of the worst & them to be there kept. Also I bequethe to the s^d^ Thoms two bullocks. Moreou whereas my sonne Rog is indebted unto me for two oxon and v bushellis barlie I do forgyve unto hym the said frelie [etc] To my sonne-in-lawe Ric Halliwall two heffers stirke to the behove of his daughters, also I bequeth to my sonne-in-lawe Jeffrie Gronowe and Cicelie his wife oñ Cowe of the seconde sort wch I will shallbe a good oñ. Also I bequeath to John Gronwall sonne to the said Jeffrey oñ pied heffer & to Catherin my goddoughter sustor to the said John, & to the reste of the children of the said Jeffrey one heffer of two yere old, also I bequeth to Willm Grymsdich of Happesworth my sonne in law and Alis his wyfe two heffer stirke also I bequethe to Elizabeth Browne doughter to Roger Browne toward a bedd a coullett a paire of shetes a bolster a blanket and oñ cowe. [If foresaid Thomas son of] Willm Browne decessed dye without issue [remainder of tenement] to the use of Thomas Browne of Dumhm and his children [remainder to next of kin of testator].

[Executors] Thos Browne of Dunham & Thos son of Wm Brown afores^d^ & my brother Mathewe Ellis[1] & my sonne Sir Henrie Browne ouseers.

[Witnesses] Sr Henrie Browne Mathew Ellis Sr John Newton Sr Thomas Straitbarrell & others.

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[1] See the will of Matthew Ellis, of Chester, dated 1547, *p.* 174.

The Will of Thomas Croxton, of Ravenscroft, dated 1544.

In the name of God Amen I Thomas Croxton of Rainscrofte[1] in the Countie of Chester beinge demanded to serve o^r^ Soveraigne Lord the Kinge in his graces warres in Frañce ꝑparinge myselfe toward the same accordinge to my bounden dutie and knowinge ther is nothing more sure than deathe and the tyme therof most uncerten and revoltinge [*sic*] to mynd that I have manie small children and smale store of goode and cattalle to ꝑferre them wth yf God call me unto his m̃cie before they be ꝑferred. And for that cause onlie of gret confidence and trust I have enfeoffed my spcall and trustie frende Wi^m^ Vernon Wi^m^ Anderton and Ric̃ Nicholas and theire heires of and in all my meases wyche houses Lande Tenemẽte rente reu̅cõns and ꝓvyces wth their appꝑtuñce in Rainscrofte aforesaid Drakley Brotherhome, Wyche Malbanke, Midlewiche, or els where w^thin^ the Countie of Chester aforesaid and that they & theyr heyres shall stand seized of all & euery the ꝑmisses except twoe wyche houses of xij leade in Midlewich aforesaid to the use of me the said Thomas Croxton & my heires if I come & retourne unto Rainscrofte aforesaid from the s̅vice of o^r^ Soveraigne Lord the Kinge in his graces warres in Frañce.

And if I chaunce to die before I come & returne to Rainscrofte afor^sd^ then the said feoffm̃t shall be to the use [of the feoffes to certain uses, as contained in a pair of Indentures & a deed of Indenture bearing date 12 Juñe, xxxvj Henry viii]

I will [that the said feoffes] shall suffer Elizabeth wieff of me the said Thom̃s to have & occupie my chiefe mease place wth all the demaine lande & Tenemẽte in Rainescrofte [etc] dureinge the said terme of x yeres so that she do and will

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[1] Thomas Croxton, of Ravenscroft in the parish of Middlewich, married according to Ormerod, Margaret, daughter of Charles Wright, of Middlewich, so that the Elizabeth mentioned in the will proves that he married twice. He is stated to have died on March 3, 1547. His mother was a daughter of Sir John Legh, of Booths, hence his appointment of his kinsman as overseer.

educate and bringe up all my children mulierlie begotten excep^{t} Wi^{m} my sonne & heire apparent that is to say my sonnes in Learninge and Doughters in other convenient busines as shall appteine to their degrees [etc. Provision made for payment of xxvj^{s} viij^{d} chief rent to the King. Mention is made of] all my daughters.

Itm̃ I will unto Homfrey & Rīc. Croxton bastard sonnes & to Elizabeth my bastard doughter & to eu̅y of them xl^{s} sterlinge [etc]

[Moveable goods to be divided in three parts, one part to his wife, second part to children with certain exceptions and third part to payment of testator's debts etc. Provision is also made for a possible further son.]

[Executors, the three feoffes]

And I make the right worshipfull John Leghe of Bothe Knight ou̅seer of this my last will. In witnes wherof to this my p̃sent will I have putto my seale the xxth day of June in the xxxvjth yere of the reigne of o^{r} Soveraigne Lord Henrie the viijth [etc] Thes beinge present Raffe Holforde, John Cowper, John Holford Wiłłm Holford cū ceter'

Inven : bonorū eiusdm̃ extendit ad valorē lxv^{li} xiij^{s}

[Proved 16 May, 1547.]

The Will of John Hockenhull, of Hockenhull, dated 1546.

In Dei Noīe Amen xxx^{o} die Decembris Año mcccccxlvj^{o} Ego Johēs Hoknehiłł[1] armig̃ cōpos mentis ac sane memorie condo istud ultimū testamentū meū in hunc modū Imp̃mis do et lego aīam meam Deo patri ōipotenti et ei^{9} unigenite filie et Corpusq̧ meū ad sepiliend̄ infra eccłiam meam parochialē de

[1] John Hockenhull, of Hockenhull and Shotwick, married Margery, daughter of John Minshull, of Minshull. Ormerod's pedigree is evidently incomplete at this period.

Tervin. Item I will & bequeth y^t^ aft̃ my buriall expencis & dettę discharged of my whole goodę all ye residue oū remenyng to be bestoed according to ye order of ye law betwixt Mgeret my wife & my naturall children not in my lif ꝑferred & holpen. Also I will y^t^ my soñe & heare shall have herrelambę [*heir-looms*] of my goodę according as I had at ye decease of my fathū. Also I will & bequeth y^t^ my executors or supvisor of theim shall receve & take yearely issues & ꝑfittę of c̃ten my meãsses & tenementę w^t^ all landę meadowe pastures & other appꝑtuñces appꝑtenynge to ye same meãsses & tenementę lying in Shotwick within ye Countie of Chester [etc] to wit of ye meãsse in tenure of Rĩc Barton ꝑ añn ij^s^ of ye measug̃ in tenure of Williã Coke ꝑ añn iiij^s^ of ye measug̃ in tenure of Alis Meyre ꝑ añn ij^s^ of ye meassueg in tenure of Ric Otie ꝑ añn xxiiij^s^ of ye messuage in tenure of John Carrer ꝑ añn iiij^s^ of ye messueg in tenure of Thom̃s Bleysse ꝑ añn viij^s^ of ye tenemēt in tenure of Thom̃s Whit' ꝑ añn xvj^s^ untill such tyme as ye o^r^ surviuo^r^ of them shall have taken & receued of ye yerely rentę issues & ꝑfitts to ye som̃e of fourtie markes sꝑlyng aft^er^ my decease to ye use & ꝑfermēt of the marigis of my ij doughꝑ Mgerie & Ann equally to be deuided betwix^t^ the tow. Provided & also I will y^t^ my sayd doughtrę or oth̃ of them do myscord̃ y^r^ bodies unhonestley & will not be ordered & maried by ye coũsell of my executor^s^ that then ye or oth^r^ of them so mysorderinge themselves or refusing ye coũsell in mariage as aforesaid shall not have any ꝑte or ꝑcell of ye sayd rentę [etc]

[After said rents are taken] Then I will & bequeth y^t^ my tow youngꝑ soñes Petꝑ & Rĩc̃ to receue & take & haue to y^r^ ꝑfermēt of ye said measses landę tenemētę [etc]. I cõstitute & orden & noĩate Johñ Mynshull of Mynshull Esquiere Wiłłm Hokenhill of Ꝑnten gent, Rauf Hockenhill my brod̃ & Wiłłm̃ Mynshull my brod̃ in law myne executorę also I bequeath to Pet^r^ Blithe a baye mare & a colte to Mgaret my wief my graye geldinge. In witnes of this my last will & testamēt I haue cõfessed & declared the ꝑmisses in ye ꝑsens & testimony of Thom̃s Mynshull John Hokenhill, Thom̃s Helyn & oth̃ also I bequeath to Wiłłm Hockēhyll & Rogꝑ Hokenhill eth̃ of them a heffer of ij yeres old also to Sir Huge Parre to pr̃e for me ij^s^

Inventorū omniū bonorū eiusd̃ extendit ad valorē xlv^{li} vij^{s} iij^{d}.

Sum Deb̃. vij^{li} vij^{s} ij^{d}

The Will of Matthew Ellis, of Chester, dated 1547.

In dei Noïe Amen the vth day off February in the xxxviij yeare[1] of the raygne off o^{r} Soueraigne lord Henry the eyght [etc]. I Mathew Elys holle off mynde neuerthelesse sicke in Bodye make [etc]. Fyrst I bequeth my sole to god [etc] & my bodye to be buryed in Seynt Maries church w^{t}in the Ile wheare I walke. Also I geave & bequeth unto the meynteninge off Seynt Maryes ꝯuice and Seynt Katerines ꝯuice one steere worthe xx^{s} or els xx^{s} off mony equallye to be deuyded betweene theym.

Itm̃ I bequeth to my eldest dawghter Alice to the ꝑferment off her marriage xxiij^{li} in full contentation off her chyldes parte or porcyon wch som̃e of xxiij^{li} Christian Hope hathe receaved ffor a Mariage to be had betwixt my seyd dawghter and Peter her sone accordinge to the couenante as be comprysed in a peyre off Indentures made betwixt me & the said Xp̃ian at the ordre and oversyght of my executors. And yff ytt chaunce my seyd dawghter Alice to dye afore the sayd mariage then I will & bequethe the xxiij^{li} to my dawghter Elysabeth to the ꝑferment off her mariage wth the sayd Peter in full contentation off her chyldes portion. And yff the sayd Alicia chaunce to marye the sayd Peter then I bequeth to the sayd Elizabeth xx^{tie} markes in full cõtentation off her chyldes portion. And yff ytt chaunce the sayd Alice

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[1] In Mr. Earwaker's Index this will is dated 1539, but in the original in the Bishop's Enrolment Book the will is clearly dated as here given. It is evident that 1539 must be incorrect, as Matthew Ellis witnessed Katherine Browne's will in 1544 (*vide* p. 170). The curious thing is that Henry the Eighth died on the 28th January, 1547, and one would think that the news of the event must have reached Chester in less than eight days, even allowing for possible snowstorms at this period of the year.

to dye and the seyd Elizabeth to be maryed to the sayd Peter then I geave & bequeath the sayd xx^{tye} markes to be deuyded betwixt my wyff and the residew off my chyldren.

[Residue of property], goodes lande howses and farmes [to wife "Marie" & other children for the space of 14 years & thereafter to] my soñe Mathew. Itm̃ I wyll that all soche closes as my syster Elizabeth hathe in her holdinge she to occupie and enioye theym so longe as she liueth and after her deceasse the sayd closes to goe to the use & p̃fett of my soñe Mathew [etc., remainder to other children by his wife "Marie"]. Itm̃ I bequeth to Syr Edmond Burton iij^{s} iiij^{d}. Itm̃ to Syr Rychard Stancliffe ij^{s}. Itm̃ to Syr Henrye Browne[1] one rynge off Syluer gylte. Itm̃ to euerye Preeste off Seynt Maryes xij^{d}. Itm̃ I bequethe to my s̃vant John Walker one Styrke w^{t} greene hornes. Itm̃ to Raffe Pickerell one red jackett.

[Executors] Marye my wyffe & Robt Byrkenet my brother in law, these beinge witnes Jhõn Robyson, Willm Barber, Roger Browne, John Jeñ [Jevan], weuer, Edmond Burton curate w^{t} others.

Debita que debentur testatori.

Imp̃mis John Haliwall off Pulford	vj^{s} viij^{d}
Itm̃ my ladye Dutton	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Itm̃ Willm Hylton	xij^{s} iiij^{d}
Itm̃ Mr Rauffe Dutton	vj^{li} xiij^{s} viij^{d}
Itm̃ John Teylior	xl^{s}
Itm̃ Mr Rauffe Dutton	xl^{s}
Itm̃ lent to Hughe Preste uppon a pledge off a gyrdle	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Itm̃ Ric̃ Byran	xviij^{d}
Itm̃ Sr John Abravaghan	x^{s}
& to his sonne Ric	x^{s}
Itm̃ Ric Hewer	xl^{s} x^{d}

[1] See the will of Katherine Browne, of Chester, dated 1544, on *p.* 169.

The Will of Robert Birkhead,[1] dated 1549.

In dei Noïe Amen I Robart Byrkhed of good & pfite memorie make my laste wyll & testament in forme followinge First I bequethe my soulle to Almightie God the Father, the Sonne & the Holi Goost & my bodie to be buried where hitt shall please his deuyne maiesti. Also I wyll that myn executore shall content & paye unto the ryght honorable Edward Erle of Darbie In recōpence of suche money as I haue had of his & for that he hath ben good Lord unto me as my speciall trust & desyre ys to haue hym to be good Lord unto my wyf & children lxvj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}. Also I doe oghe unto one Ric. Lowe ꝑuant unto the sayd Erle xl^{s} wch he lent me. Also unto Cristofer Gawen late Baylyff of Holland for a nagge xxvj^{s} viij^{d}. Also to Thoms Botill of Lathom ꝑuant to the sayd Erle iij^{li}. Also unto Robart Wyllyamson of the Lordship of Knoysley ꝑuant to the sayd Erle for a cowe. Also unto Sr Hugh Huxley xxvj^{s} viij^{d} whereof he hayth had v^{s} viij^{d}. Also I gyffe grant & assigne unto my wyff the howse wherein I doe nowe dwell according to ow^{r} purches wch is iontly to hyr & me, and after hyr decease to the heyres of ow^{r} two bodies begoten & for defaute of suche issue to the right heyres of [me] the sayd Robart for eu̅. Also I do orden & make my sayd wyff my sonnes Rauff & Edward my executors. Also to them I do gyff all my goodes & cattalle over & besydes the ꝑmisses & my funerall expensis. Alsoe whereas my brother-in-lawe Hugh Arrowsmythe deuysed by hys last wyll alle his lande & tente in Manchester to me & my wiff & to the heyres of ow^{r} twoe bodies begoten I wyll that the sayd Lande & tente for default of such issue shall remaine unto Katheren Dale wyff of Robart Dale of Manchester [to her right heirs written 8 February 1549 (4 Edw: vj)].

By me Robart Byrkhed.

[No date of probate.]

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[1] Probably of the parish of Prescott. This will appears in the Index (Vol. ii. *Rec. Soc.*) as of Robert Birkenhead, but there is nothing to show that this is the name in the will itself.

The Will of John Whitmore, of Thurstaston, dated 1553.

In the Name of God Amen ye Fath̄ ye Sone & ye Holie Goste one God eternall Amen. I Jhon Whitmore [of] Thurstonton in ye countie of Chesl Esquire being this xviij^th^ daye of September in ye yere of o^r^ Lord God A thousand fiue hundreth fiftie & three of gud & pfect memory albeit yet something weake & sicke in bodie callyng to remēbrance how ꝛten I am to die [etc] do make & orden my testamēt conteyning my last will in man̄ & forme following that is to saye ffirste Comendinge my soule unto ye handꝭ of Almighty [God] my Savi^or^ & Jesus Christ trusting by ye meritte & blude sheding to enherit his kyngdom I will y^t^ my bodie shalbe buryed in ye chaūsell of West Kirbye nere unto ye tomes or graues of my Auñceters there with such funurales obsequies as may be done unto Goddes glory w^th^out pompe or oth̄ folishe solomnities.

Also I will y^t^ in ye morning of ye daye of my buriall afore my corpes be carried unto ye Church my executors distribute unto ye pore folkes thyder comyng xxvj^s^ viij^d^ in peny dole w^ch^ [I] do leue in olde pence for y^t^ ppas that eu̅yone of ye pore folkes haue a peny & for ye rest of ye oth̄ thinges to be done at or about my saide funerales I do reserue ye same to be done by ye discrecion of my execut^r^ꝭ also where I haue geuen & assured all those my seu̅all leases & Interest of & in ye tythe corne of Rabie & of & in a farme at Irbye wch Henry Tottie now occupieth to my cosine Willm Hocknell of Prenton & his assignes for eu̅ to ye use & behoufe of me for terme of lif & afl my decease to ye use of John Whitmore my cosin & heir apparante during his natural life. I will y^t^ my cosins haue hold & Injoye ye occupacion of ye seu̅all farmes accordingly.

Also I will & bequethe all my Interest & terme of yeres yet to com̄ of & in a close in Yrbie called ye Grayte Hay wch I haue of Willm Lee for ix yeres yet to com̄ unto my cosin Willm Benyt & his assigns for eu̅. Also I do remyte unto Sr John Anian x^li^ pcell of xx^li^ wch he doth oughe unto me & ye oth̄ x^li^ residue I will & bequeth unto his broth̄ & my

cosin Ric̃ Anian also I will y^t my execut^re w^hin convenient & reasonable tyme aft my decease cõtente & paye unto my sist Katheren Bostocke vj^li xiij^s iiij^d also where[as] Rondull Stanley Esquier is Indebted unto me in ye som̃e of a cxix^li by specialities & othwise I do geue & bequethe fortie pounde pcell y^rof unto my wif & I will deuise & bequethe lix^li one oth pcell of ye said som̃e of cxix^li & also viij^li oweinge unto me by Willm Moston son̄e & heire of Thom̃s Moston Esquire to my said cosin & heire John Whitmore to be deliuered unto him at his age of xxj yeres & if he do depte afore y^t age I will y^t William Whitmore shall haue ye seuall som̃es of lix^li & viij^li at his age of xxi yeres & if he do depte afore y^t age then I will ye same be distributed among my kinne by my executo^rs. Also I will y^t my executors apon my goode sue & obtaine ye same seuall somes & deliuer ye same accordinge to my full mynd & will & y^t ye[y] release no pte y^rof. Also I geue & bequeth unto ye said Will Whitmore xx^li one oth pcall of ye said som̃e of cxix^li also I do remyte & forgeue unto Willm Anyan x^li of y^t he dothe owghe unto me & unto John Warton vj^li of his dette & unto Henry Stanton xxij^s of his dette & unto John Braband half of ye debte he oughith me & unto Rog Pigote half of his dette unto me & unto Ric̃. Androes all his dette & unto Thom̃s Brid x^s of his dette & unto Willm Curtesse theld all his dette & unto Willm Whitmore all his dette sauinge Mydsom Rente laste due also I geue & bequeth unto Ric̃ Anyan iij^li wch Henry Stanton doth owe unto me to be payd me in three years aft xx^s ye yere. Also I do remyte & foregiue unto John Androwe xi^s of ye dette wch his owinge unto me & unto Henry Framewe [Framwell] xiij^s iiij^d of y^t he owgheth unto me & unto John Diall vj^s viij^d of his dette Also I geue to Willm Gregorie all his dette towards ye marriage of his daught Also I giue to Richard Moneley of his dette iij^s iiij^d also I remyte & forgiue to Willm Gobbyn all his dette & to Hamlet Rummer all his dette excepte his last rent due at Mydsom last also I geue to my cosin Henry Whitmore one cowe & to Henry Stephen my svant one cowe & to Blessen Wilbram a calf & to Dauy Edward a yerying calf & to Blesse Andrew a calf also I geue to Nicholas Moneley of his dette ij^s also I geue to ye church of West Kirby xx^s

also I will ye churchewardens of Thurstanton haue ye occupacion of my chalice of silu̅ pcell gilte & a sute of vestmente & all ye same to remain otħwise in ye order of my heres also I will y^t my said cosin & heire John Whitmore & his broth William haue well & truly deliu̅ed all such goode & cattalle & oth things as were y^r fathers Thom̃ Whitmore & I will & bequeth to my cosin John Whitmore ye best bedde & [other household goods etc] within my house at Thurstanton wherein now I do dwell & [all husbandry gear plate etc]. Also I do geue to Willm Whitmore my silu̅ pece & unto Sr John Annyan v sponnes wch I had in gage of his moth. To my said wif vj silu̅ spones [etc] To my brother-in-law Rauffe Bostocke [etc] & to Willm Annyon of Geldyn Sutton a cowe & I will y^t all ye rest & residue of my household stuffe corne [etc not yet bequethed] funerales pformed & dette payd [go] to my said wif & cosins John Whitmore & his broth Willm & betwixte them equally deuyded [etc]

[Executors] Ric̃ Wilbrõme Rauf Worseley Esquiers Willm Hocknell of Prenton Rog̃ Hurlton Willm Benyt & Sir John Anyan & Sr Thomas Sharpe Clarke John Whitmore[1]

Hīs testibus ẽ p̅sentibus Rīc Annian Rauf Bostocke & Henry Stevin, John Whitmore, Ric Harpur et multis aliis.

The Will of Ralph Hockenhull, of Shotwick, dated 1556.

In the Name of God Amen. I Rauffe Hockenell holle in mynd & Sycke in Bodye make my laste wyll & testament in manner & forme followinge fyrste I bequethe my soule to Allmightye God my maker redemer & Sauyor that ys to saye my bodye to be buried in the paryshe Churche of Showycke & the charges thereof to arise & be taken of my holle goodes & my debtes to be paid of the same & after that I will &

[1] These names all follow one another as above, but it is doubtful whether they are meant to be all executors; the probability is that only the first two acted in this capacity, the others being overseers.

bequethe that my wyf shall have of my goodes iij coūlettę ij payre of shetę ij fethbeddes one mattris iiij potengers of pewter & iiij chargers ij kynes one brasse potte one pañ her werynge clothes & one corrall payres of beydes in recompence of hyr parte of such goodes & cattells as by th'order of the lawe after & by my deathe she shuld have & receyue of the same goodes & cattelles. And I wyll further that my Eldest daughter after her mariage shall have the same Corrall beydes and if she die I wyll & bequethe the same to suche of my daughters as shall be nexte in age to my sayd eldest daughter at the tyme of her dethe. Item I bequethe to my said wyf twentye poundes of moneye. Item I wyll that the residewe of my goodes [etc] be deuided at the discretion of my Executors amongst my children & that my executors shall take all my children frome my sayd wyfe & bestowe them as the[y] shall thinke good for ther pferment. Moreover I wyll gyve & assigne to Peter Hocknell of Hockenell & to Wiffm Hockenell of Prenton my holle interest & terme of yeres to come wch I have of and in the ferme of Sutton with my coñat sealle concerninge the same & the profittes of the same to bestowe upon my children and [? for *as*] the same shall yerely fall & aryse accordinge to ther discretion. Item I bequethe to Master Wyllyam Massye a bassen & a ewer, & to Peter Hocknell my best gone, and to John Batmon my weringe russett gone, & to my cosyn Wyllyam Hocknell of Prenton my beast dawblett or gyrken & to his wyfe a rynge of golde, and I wyll that all the Resedewe of my Apparell to be bestowed by my executors for my solle[s] helthe. Item I wyll that my Executors shall give my mother a kyrtell. Item I gyve & bequethe to the parishe Churche of Shotwyke so much of my goodes as shall be a vestment wth pares. Item I wyll & bequethe to Sir Thomas Hande clarke iij^s iiij^d.

[Executors] Peter Hockenell of Hockenell & Wylliã Hockenell of Prenton & Wyllyam Massie of Puddington Esquire overseer [etc]

[Witnesses] Thomas Hande clarke, Thomas Heylen Richard Otey Thomas Taylor Edmund Whythedde Robart Warton Henry Harker Rychard Bradlay & others. Wrytten

the xvjth daye of Januarie in the yeare of O^{r} Lorde God MDlvj [etc]

[No probate ; an Inventory without a total.]

The Will of Roger Mason, Vicar of Huyton, dated 1557.

In the Name of God Amen the xijth daie of Maye in ye yere of our Lorde Gode MCCCCClvij [etc] I Rog̃ Mason clarke now Vicar of Huyton in ye countie of Lancastrĩe being of gud & pfect remẽbraunce [etc] do orden make & cõstitute this my last will & testament in man̄ & forme followinge y^{t} is to say first I comite my soule unto Almightie God my mak̄ & redem̄ by whose passion I trust to be a saued soule & ptak̄ of his evlastinge & glorious kingdom & my bodie to be buried w^{t}in ye pishe churche of Huyton. Item I geue & bequeth unto John Mason of ye Citie of Chest̄ coruesor [?] xl^{ti} angels in gold togeth̄ w^{t} such somes of money and gude of myne as ye same John hath at this tyme in his hands. Itm̃ I geue & bequeth unto George Mason broth̄ unto the said John Mason xl^{ti} angeles in gold. Itm̃ I geue & bequethe unto Katerin now wife unto Thom̃s Linsley of Couentrie & sist̄ unto ye said John ten pounde. Itm̃ I geue & bequeth unto M̄geret Mason sist̄ unto ye said Katherin xl pounde to & for ye pferment of ye honest & cõuenient mariage of ye same M̄get if she wilbe maried at ye sight & advise of myn execut^{r}e. Item I geue & bequeth unto Thom̃s Masson th'eld & broth̄ unto ye said John vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}. Item I geue & bequeth unto Thom̃s Mason yong̃ & also broth̄ unto ye said John ten^{li} if he be in plaine lif at ye tyme of my decease Itm̃ I geue & bequeth unto Willm Mason broth̄ unto ye said John xx^{li}. Item I geue & bequeth unto Edward Finney Thom̃s Finney George Finney & James Fynney childrẽ unto Elyn̄ Fynney now wif of John Finney of Whitston xiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} to be used & imployed to y^{r} use at ye sight & appointmẽt of my execut^{r}e to go fortheward w^{t} them. Im̃ I geue & bequeth unto M̄gery Gille now my s̄uint ten

pounde & also ye bed y^t she usith to lie in & ten^s in money to bie a case to ye same togethr w^t a cowe a brasse potte & a panne. Itm I geue unto Robart Fynney x^li to goe fortheward w^t him. Itm I geue toward ye helpinge of xx^ti pore maide w^tin ye pishe [of] Huyton to cõueniente mariage xiij^li vj^s viij^d to be paid & bestowed by myne executor at his discrecion w^tin one yere nexte aft my decease. Itm I bequeth to ye helping & furthrance of ye most poore & olde w^tin ye towne & lordshippe of Huyton, Robie & Wolfall xl^s to be deliured & bestowed by my executor at his discrecion w^tin one weeke next aft my decease unto such as shalbe thoughte most ned yof.

[Similar bequests to the poor of Prescott, Ormskirk & to Burscough x^s Walton x^s Wartrie [Wavertree] x^s Liverpool xl^s, & Farnworth xx^s.]

[Further bequests to] Margaret Chesshire my sists daught & to Alis Chesshire my sists daught, [etc, to] Jane Parrie now my sũnt [to] Kathrin Rathbon now my sũnt, [to] Ric̃ Rathbon now my sũnt, [to] Elin Finnye a cowe Itm I bequeth unto ye mendinge of ye waye from Huyton unto Prescott xx^s. Itm I bequethe to ye mẽdinge of Dichfielde lane xiij^s iiij^d. Itm to Margaret Rathbon & Elen Rathbon sistre unto ye said Katrin Rathbon to eithr of them x^s. Itm I geue & bequeth unto Sr Hugh Huxley my late M a riall of gold. Itm I geue & bequethe unto Sr Willm Asmole an old angell noble togethr w^t my wint gowne. Itm I geue & bequethe unto Margret Walker, Elen Walker Margerie Walkr & Anne Walker doughtre of Ric̃ Walker of [Blank.] unto eury of them x^s a pece [etc] Itm I geue & bequeth unto Elen Ireland x^s, Itm I will y^t my executor upon the daye of my buriall shall bestowe at his discrecion among ye pore people y^t thither shall resort peny dole. Itm I bequeth unto eury godchild that I have xij^d. Itm I will & do also geue & bequeth to my execut to bestow among othr my frende beying of ye porest sort yt stond to me at or w^tin ye thrid degrie y^t I haue bequethed nothing unto ye pformance & accomplishemente of my legacies & bequeste cõtened in this my last will & testament & upon charitable deedes at his discrecion all & eury my goode & catteles [etc] y^t shall remene our & beside my gifte & bequeste [etc]. Itm I

bequethe unto Sr John Rathbon my best gowne togethꝯ with my cloke. Itm̃ I geue & bequethe unto Sr Edward Lowe a gowne. Itm̃ I geue & bequethe unto Sr Gilbart Shrilacies my short gowne in recõpence of his wagis. Itm̃ I geue & bequeth unto Agnes Gille ij yardes of flaxen cloth. Itm̃ I wyll that my execut̃ shall bie & deliu̅ unto eu̅ye child of John Finneye now dwelling wt him a whit cote. Itm̃ I will yt my execut̃ shall bestow among ye children of ye said John Finney & ye children of Thoms̃ Kelbt my [?] pece of canvis to make ym shirte wtall [etc]

[Executor] Sr John Rathbon

[Overseer] Sr Edward Lowe.

[Witnesses] Sr Edward Lowe Sr George Wyllyamson Sr John Dorbie Sr Gilbart Shrilacies priestes, John Boner & John Pcivall yomen with others.

The Will of Adam Bank, of Wigan, dated 1557.

In the Name of God Amen [19 July 1557] I Adam Banke of Wigan in the Countie of Lanc. braser being visited wth sicknes [etc] I bequethe my sowle to Almightie God to have the fraicõn [fruition] of his prescence wth the Sainte & Angellis of heaven, my bodie I bequethe to Christian buriall at my parishe Churche [etc] [Goods to be divided into 3 parts, one part reserved for himself to pay debts funeral expenses etc, one part to his wife Grace Banke] and the thrid pte to my two sonnes Humfrey & Thomas. Also I geve to my sonne Humfrey Banke all my pewter moede [*moulds*] wth this Condicõn and provision that he the said Humfrey shall pmitt & suffer my sonnes Willm Banke & Thoms̃ Banke to cast in them at ther pleasure & libꝯtie at all tymes [etc]. Also hit is my wyll [etc] that the said Humfrey shall forsee that the said Thoms̃ be set to learning in his childhoodd to the schole & then to his occupacõn of the Pewterers Crafte wherbie he may be able to get his lyvinge wthall. Also hit is my will that Willm my sonne shall have xxll of my whole goode the

wch I promysed to hym at the tyme of his marriage. Also I geue to Humfrey my sonne all my leases & tacke that I now have at this pnt tyme the house that John Banke dwellithe in. onlie excepted [etc] To Willm Ricrofte iij^li vj^s viij^d. To Willm Banke the sonne of Thomas Banke xx^s. To John Mather xx^s when he come to the age of xxj yeres. To Adam Ricrofte xx^s when he come to the age of xxj yeres. To Elizabeth Ricrofte xiij^s iiij^d. To Grace Ricrofte vj^s viij^d. To Roger Ricrofte vj^s viij^d. To Cicelie Ricrofte my Redd heffer. Also I geue towarde the mendinge of the lane betwene the Stonne crosse and ye Laudmaryhead grene xx^s. To Adam Forstar iij^s iiij^d. To Raffe Forstar iij^s iiij^d

[Exors] Wife Grace Banke & sons William, Humfrey & Thomas Banke

[Overseer] Sethe Forstar

[Witnesses] Sr Willm Astley & Sr Raffe Scotte, prestis.

[Proved 14 January 1557.]

The Will of Richard Halsall, of Whiston, dated 1557.

In the Name of God Amen the xiiij^th day of Novebre in the yeare off owre Lord God a thowsand ffyve hundretht ffyfftye & seven I Richard Halsall off Quyston [*Whiston*] in the pishe off Prescott Sycke in bodie [etc] do make my last will [etc] First I bequethe my sowle unto Almightye God & to owre Ladye Seynt Maryc and to all the Holye Companye off Heave & my bodie to be buried in the Church off All Saynte in Prescott. Also I bequethe unto everye of my brothere chyldere iiij^d & to there wyves every one iiij^d and to Margaret Hunter iiij^d. Also I bequeth unto Henry Halsall my sonne all my tacke off the Delffe off Coles wiche I have taken off Thoms Nelson [etc] my wyffe having Coles free so longe as she lyveth [etc] also [sundry garments] & a kappe w^t an egleffoote. Also I bequeth unto Ric Halsal my

sone my brothered slyveles Jacket & my howse in Leidyate. [Bread dole at Funeral.] Also I bequethe unto the mending off the lane betwixt my house & the Twisse Greene x^{s}. [Goods to be devided into 3 parts, one part to self one to wife & third to children, & overplus of his own part to go] unto Elyn my dawghter yff she be ordered & cowseled by my sone Henrye [etc Present dwelling house to son Henry]

[Executors] Elsabetht my wyffe & Henry Halsal my sone.

[Overseers] Sr Edward Garnett, Lawrence Potter & Robt Webstar.

[Witnesses] Boldweyne Justas Edward Holland, Thoms Garnet & others.

Dettes owing unto me as appeareth.

Robert Webster off Eccleston ...	viij^{li}	xiij^{s}	ij^{d}
Edward Esthed		viij^{s}	viij^{d}
Evan Blonchard		viij^{s}	
Uxor Edwardi Esthed			xvij^{d}
Lawrence Potter	iiij^{li}		ij^{d}
Willm Sutton of Wiston		viij^{s}	
Robt Webstar of Prescott	iij^{li}	vij^{s}	iij^{d}
Whereof xx^{s} to be geaven ageyne & ye residew to be payd w^{t}in vj yeares.			
Edwarde Hollãd off Prescott ...		xj^{s}	
Evã Clefft		xx^{s}	
Hughe Halsall			xvij^{d}
Thoms Garnett off Quyston ...		xx^{s}	
Uxor Sedde Webstar			xij^{d}
Henrye Heytñ		vj^{s}	viij^{d}
Hughe Halsall of Knowley ...			vj^{d}
Boldweyne Justes		xx^{s}	
James Guldiker & his wiffe ...		viij^{s}	
Henrye Browne		vij^{s}	vj^{d}
Jhõn Burges of Pmton		vj^{s}	viij^{d}
James Garstange		xiij^{s}	iiij^{d}
Henry Coney off Ditton		xj^{s}	iiij^{d}
Uxor Hughe Kydde		iij^{s}	iij^{d}

Bad uxor ffor Edmond Hulme ...		ix^{d}
Henry Gowburne for heye ...	iij^{s}	iij^{d}
Jhõn Yate		ix^{d}
Ric̃ Letherbarewe		ix^{d}
Wyllm Gowburne		ix^{d}
Jhõn Medoall	iij^{s}	iij^{d}
Roger Levesey	xvij^{s}	j^{d}
Wyllm Gowburne & hys wiff ...	xxvj^{s}	viij^{d}
George Coyntree	iij^{s}	v^{d}
Ric̃ Rawlynson & his wyff ...		xix^{d}
Wyllm Leitherbape	iij^{s}	
James Cropper & the wyffe of Ric̃ Atherton	xix^{s}	iiij^{d}
Jhõn Shurlakers & the wyff of Peeres Letherlãd	v^{s}	
Uxor Hughe Kydde & Edmond Holme...	ij^{s}	iiij^{d} ob.
James Tatlocke	xiiij^{s}	
Rawfe Levesley		xiiij^{d}
Thom̃s Lediate		xiiij^{d}
Jhõn Yate		xij^{d}
Henrye Bartũ	iij^{s}	vj^{d}
Roger Brygge	[. . . .]	
Jhõn Halsall of Lathũ	vij^{s}	
James Cropper of Lathũ and his wiffe	vj^{s}	iij^{d}
George Ley of Heyton		xiij^{d}
Jhõn Halsall	iij^{s}	iij^{d}
Jhõn Justes		xjx^{d}
William Flappeforthe	vij^{s}	
Thom̃s Morecroffte		xv^{d}

Dettꝗ w^{h} I owe here after

Imprimis to Jhõn Lawton ...	vj^{li}	
Itm to Lawrence Potter	[. . . .]	

[No probate ; an Inventory without total.]

The Will of William Bradshaw, of Aspull, dated 1558.

In the Name off God Amen. [12 August 1558] I Wylliã Bradshaw off Aspull in the Countye of Lanc. gent being sicke [etc] I bequethe my Sowle to God Almightye to haue the fruition off his presens wt the Seinte & Angells off heaven, my bodye I bequethe to Christian Buriall at my Parishe Churche, and [of] my goodes [etc] I wyll that my sone Humffrey shall haue all that the law wyll pmitt & suffer me to geave to him & I do constitute ordeyne & make the seyd Humffrey my sole executor to execute this my last wyll these being witnesses

Thomas Bilfrog
Gylbert Scott
Robert Newall
& Andrew Lathwatt wt others

[Proved 12 Sept. 1558.]

The Will of James Benet, of Thornton-le-Moors, dated 1559.

In the Name of God Amen the xxxth day of Februarye in ye yeare of or Lorde God MDLix I James Benet[1] of Thornton Mores beinge sicke in bodye & whoole in mynde make my testament & Last Will in man & forme followinge. First I bequeathe my soule to Almightie God or Ladie St Mary & all ye Holie cumpanie of Heven, my bodie to be buried in ye pishe Churche of Thornton Mores nygh to ye St Marie Aulter. Also I geue to Xpofer Nowuett one incalf heaffer. Also I geve to eny one of my godchildren iijs iiijd. Also I geue to ye poore folke of this pishe foure busshelle of wheat

[1] For a full account of this family see Vol. iii. of the *Proceedings of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, in a paper entitled "The Ancient Family of Bennet of Saughall-Massey, etc." by E. M. Hance, Esq.

to be delt by hoopes. Also I geue to ye mendinge of Fradsome Bridge & to Trafford Bridge & to eyther of them vj^{s} viij^{d}. Also I geue to my ꝑsũnt Thoms Xpofer one two yere olde heaffer. Also I geue to Joan Ellum another ij yere old heaffer. Also I will y^{t} my cubbord standinge & my dishbord standinge my counter borde, my Iron grate my fowre beddes w^{h} their furniture a tie a dozen of sylue^{r} spones all my plowes waynes, & all thinge thereto belonginge to be hayrelomes. [Rest of goods] to my soñe George & his childerne. My purchased lande & morgaged lande I geue to my soñe George & his two soñes

[Executors] sonne George, my brother Roger the Vicar of St Warburres in Chester & my cosyn Christopher Bennet.

[Witnesses] Sr Roger Bennet Vicar, Chrystopher Bennet Chrystopher Nowell, Thomas Christopher.

The Will of John Grice, of Brombrough, dated 1560.

In dei Noïe Amen [7 March 1560] I John Gryce sycke [etc] my bodie to be buried in the churche of Brombro. Imprimis I giue to Margaret Cottingham my bedde [etc] & I leaue my house with the groundes thereto belonginge to Margaret Cottingham the one halfe & William my sonne, his brother, & sisters, the other halfe as much as in me doth remayne. [Cattle] to be devyded into six ꝑte to Margaret Cottingham & my fyue children equallie to be devyded. To my sonne George three calves. To my sonne William my wayne [etc] [mentions] my three daughters. I giue to Willm Hey of eu̅ie grayne a busshell [etc]. Itm I geue the rest of my goodes moueable & immoueable my legacies fulfilled & my dette payd & I honestlie brought home of the whole to my children. Itm̃ I the said John Gryce do declare in this my laste will that I neu̅ made Mr Fletcher non assignment butt one wch I made hym out of my covent seale onlie for the behoof & ꝑferment of my children.

[Executors] Sr Rowland Stanley knight & William Gryce my sonne hee beinge ruled by the saide Sr Rowlande Stanley.

Dette owing mee of yearlie payment to bee payd to mee by Mr Roger Sefton clarke pson of Billington [*sic* for Bebington].[1]

Imprimis	xvs
and also yearelie dureing his lyfe to mee and my assignes whome I make my assignes Eliz: my daughter to receyve the same ...	xxs
Itm I doe owe to Mr Robt Fletcher and more I doe nott owe hym as I shall answere afore God another daie	xvs

[Witnesses] Sr Peter Jackson clarke & Deane of Wirral
Sr Richard Cooke his ghostlie father
John Whytehead
John Lewes
James Tunston
Thomas Burge
Roger Pinington wth others

[Proved 4 July 1560 by Exors named]

[Proved a second time by Sr Rowland Stanly 13 Jan: 1589.

The Will of Ralph Bostock, of Chester, dated 1560.

In dei Noie Amen the fowrtht day of Januarye in the yeare off owre Lord God a thowsand ffyve hundretht and three score I Raffe Bostocke off the Citye of Chester in the pishe off Seynt Peeters Thus do make [etc] I bequethe my sowle unto Almightie God my saviour & redemer & to our Blessed

[1] John Grice was the patron of the living of Bebington for one turn, and presented the Rev. Roger Sefton to it in 1556.

Ladye Seynt Marye & all the Holy Companye of Heavẽ and my bodie to be buried in my paryshe churche in the Northt Ile as nighe unto my ffathers grave as mey conveniently be. Secondlye I geave & bequethe all my goodes [etc] unto my wyffe Anne & my childrẽ that ys to sey Raffe Thom̃s Joh̃ne Williã & Jane to be devided amongest them according to the ancient custome off the contrey, [also] lease & tacke off thys my howse wherein I nowe dwell [to son Ralph when he come to full age]

[Executors] wyff Anne and my soñe Raffe Bostocke

[Overseers] my brother Wylliã Bostocke, my hũcle Wylliã Bostocke & my uncle Jhõn Radfford

[Witnesses] Wylliam Fletcher Williã Bostocke, Adam Platt wth others

[Proved 3 Nov. before the Chancellor on the Visitation of the Metropolitan by Anne, relict of testator Ralph Bostocke, the other executor being dead.]

[Inventory of Chester goods taken 21 January 1561. & of his goods at "hys farme att Barrowe" on the 22 Jan. 1561.]

The Will of Sir Robert Langley, of Agecroft, dated 1561.

In the Name of God Amen the xix day of September [1561 etc] I Robert Langley[1] of Agecroft in the Countie of Lancastre Knight beyinge sicke in bodye [etc]. To John Ekersall my s^r^uant iiij^or^ shepe. To John Digle v^li^ or a heffer. To Adam Gartside iiij^or^ shepe. Item hit is my will that all the Residue of my ꝯsunte other then such to whome I have graunted certen anuities for terme of theire Lyues shall haue ewerye one of theym a quarters wagies towarde their ꝑferment oꝯ & besydes their wagis wch shall be due at the tyme of my decease. And hit [is] further my will and I geue & bequethe

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[1] *Vide* Will of Robert Langley, *p.* 62.

to Dame Cicille my wyff all the residue of my goode [etc after funeral expenses & debts have been paid]

[Exors] Cosin Edmund Trafford Esquir & Dame Cicely my wief

[Overseers] Sr Edmund Trafford Sr Willm Radcliff Knighte.

[Witnesses] Robert Langly. Ric̃ Gerrard. Ric̃ Langton. & dyvers other.

[Proved xix Feb 1561]

The Will of William Hockenhull, of Prenton, dated 1563.

In the Name of God Amen. I Wyllyam Hockenell of Prenton in the Countye of Chester Gentillman beynge sicke [etc]. I wyll & devise all & singuler my capitall howsse of Prenton in the Countie of Chester and all lande tente reuercions [etc] beynge pcell of the demeane lande of the sayd Capitall howse [etc] to my wyff Margerie by name for & dureinge the terme of seven yeares nexte ensueinge the daye of my deceasse to hyr owne use to the entent that therwth & wth the pfitte of the same like a good & a naturall mother shall bring up my doughters not preferred or by me advaunced in good norture & education paying yerely therefore the sume of iijli vjs viijd to my heyre. And further I wyll & devise all & singuler my purchased lande tente wch I haue and ame seased of in the sayd Countie in demeane or reuercion to my sayd wyff for terme of hyr naturall lyff & after hyr decease to my right heyres.

[Dower of third part of the said lands after the expiration of the said term]

And further I wyll & devise to every of my doughters Katheren & Margarett toward there preferment seuallye fyftye pounde [etc]

And further I wyll & devise to every one of my younger sonnes the summe of fortye poundes [etc & a annuity of 20/- each issuing from lands in] Tranmar Houlle & Morton [etc]

to commence after the deathe of my saide wyff. And further I wyll & deuyse to my sonne in lawe Wyllyam Dod one howse of tenyment and all Landę therunto belonginge in Howe for terme of his lyffe & of Elizabeth his wyffe & the longer lyver [etc] paying to my sonne & heyre therefore xiij^{s} iiij^{d} for all saruysses & demands. And also I gyve to my sister in lawe M^{ris} Bostocke a cow [etc]

[Executors] My wyff & my sonne-in-lawe Roger Glegg

[Overseers] John Whitmore Esquyer

[17 January 1563]

[Witnesses] John Norbury gent, Thomas Bellyne Hugh Glyn Doctor of fysycke. Foulke Aldersay Wyllyam Dod m̃chant.

[No date of probate.]

The Will of Roger Glegg, of Grange,[1] dated 1564.

In dei noĩe Amen, in the yeare of ow^{r} Lord God a thowsande fyue hundred thre score & foure the fyrst daye of Februarii I Roger Clegge sicke in bodie [etc] my bodie to be buried in Saynct Aswaldę church or ellę where it pleaseth God & my frendę. Itm̃ I wyll my dettę be payd my body brought home with my goodę. Itm I wyll my iiij children have the iiij heffers that be putt forth for them wth the profittę that cumeth of them besyde theire childes parte. Itm I wyll my eldest sonne haue my beste rynge wth the stone in hit & my best pott & yf the eldest departe afore the age of twentye and one yeres I will my yonger sone have them. Itm I will my wiff have the order of all my Landę & goodę untyll my eldest sonne be of the Age of xxi yeres & then my goodę to be devyded betwixt my wiff & my children yff the canne not agre wth there mother Alsoe whereas I haue payd to Robart

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[1] In the parish of West Kirby. He was the son of John Glegg, the original grantee of the property, see *Ormerod* (*Helsby*), Vol. ii., *p.* 492.

Maynwarynge for a close iiij yeares rent aforehand I wyll that Thomas Bellen & Edward Smythe & Jane Taylyer have the close for ij yeres yett cuminge accordinge to my promes or elle theire money agayne. I make my executor my wyff and I make Wyllyam Dod ouerseer to see this my last wyll fulfylled. Thes by wittnese of this my last wyll puttinge to off owr hande Roger Bennett Vicar & Thomas Bellen marcer

[No date of probate.]

A trew Inventorye of the goode & cattelle of Roger Clegge of the Grañge gentylmã praysed by Thomas Lynnaker, Rychard Yonge, Thoms Coventrye of the Grange.

[No total.]

The Will of Henry Bedford, of Liverpool, dated 1568.

The xxviij^th^ daye of October Anno Dñi 1568.

In the Name of God the father the sone & the Holyghoste thre psons and one god to whom be all honor & glory for euer & euer Amen, I Henry Bedford[1] of Lyuerpoole in the Countie of Lancaster Remẽbring the uncerteyne state of mans liffe and that death is a thinge most certaine to come to euery lyving creature but when where or howe is reserved from mans knowledg to god onlye wisdome, that in tyme of sicknes it is most necessary and convenient to be quiet in mynde & to call for Gods great mercy & grace according to the duty of a christian man and not then to be troubled with worldly matters & vanities do therefore make & ordeyne this my last will & testament of all my goode cattells Plate money & dette in manner & form following FIRST I bequeath my sole unto

[1] I am indebted to E. M. Hance, Esq., for the following note: "Mr Henry Bedford" lived in Water Street, and in 1565 was assessed to the large amount of 16d. in the "Ley" for the repair of Walton Church. He does not seem to have been himself a burgess of Liverpool, but his second son, Henry, appears on the roll of 1589 as No. 113.

God the father almightie who hath made me of nothinge & unto Jesu Christe his onlie sone who by the merites of his most glorious & bitter passion hath mos^{t} mercifully & freely redeemed me from Damnacion my bodie to be buried within the ꝑish of Lyuerpoll or els where it shall please god to call me without any pompe or symptuosnes FIRST I bequeath to Mergaret Bedford my wiff in money one hundreth markes I geue also to my wiff all my Plate & my howshold stuff & reparell trusting her to be good unto our two children wth a porcyon thereof as she shall seme best I geue unto William Bedford my eldest sonne one hundreth pounde and unto Henry Bedford my younger sone another hundreth pounde [etc] More I geue to the poore of Lyuerpoll the some of xxx^{s}. I do make & ordeyne my executors my wyff Mergarett Bedforde & Willm Bedford my sone & overseer of this my will I do desire good Mr Willm Glaseor Esquier for the which I will him to have a ringe made pryce iij^{li}. I geve to John Bennet & my sister Mary ech of them a rynge pryce xxvj^{s} viij^{d} a piece. I desire you John Bennet euen as I have loued you to loue nowe my wief & children [etc. Residue equally to wife & children].

I Henry Bedforde have written this with my owne hand euen the xxviijth of October By me Henry Bedforde

AND for dette I owe none in the worlde but unto John Bennet my servant [etc]

Now as touching our children good wieff this is my mynde that when you have done & gathered in my dette and appointed theyr porcyon I prey you lett them ꝑcede in there lerninge and have you M^{r}Glaseour['s]mynd & Thomas Gore['s] opinion how that stocke may be best Imployed for increase to mainteyne ther learninge and you shall find Mr Gore y^{r} frend for I thank hym he hath bene eu̅ myne & I know righte well he will not refuse to doo my children a good turne I have forgotten him whom I am moste bounden to remember therefore I pray you Lett him have a Ringe price iij^{li} such a one as Mr Glaseour most have.

[Proved. vij. January 1568. Admon. to widow, power reserved to other exor. owing to minority]

The Will of Thomas Browne, of Hoole, dated 1572.

In dei Noïe Amen. [14 May] Anño Dni Milleo quingentẽo Septuagẽo decimo [*sic*] I Thomas Browne of Hoole gent trobled somewhat wth certaine deceases in diũs ꝑte of my bodie [etc]

To the ꝑishe churche of Plemstowe xx^s^

To Elizabeth Browne my wyff my lease of my farme at Broughtõ [etc] requiring her to suffer my father to have such portion thereof as she shall think convenient [etc] during his life & the life of my mother.

The lease of my house in Hoole & my lands [etc in Co. Flint & elsewhere to wife to bring up children until xx years]

[To sons Rich. & John lease of land in Upton "of which I have the fee simple."] [Mentions "a title booke remaining in my studie"]

Exor. wife Eliz & Richard Browne my sonne.

Sealed 14 Aug 1578

Wit. Francꝭ Birkhened.
Wm Dorington.
John Hankie.
Dauid Dimocke.

Proved 12 Oct. 1578 Inv. 200^li^ 20^s^ 8^d^

The Will of William Massey, of Puddington, dated 1579.

"In dei noïe Amen the xxiiij^th^ daye of Apryll in the yeare of our Lorde God 1579," etc, "I William Massie of Puddington in the countie of Chester Esquier beinge of good & ꝑfecte mynde" etc. "doe therefore make this my last Wyll & Testament as well of c̃ten my messuage landꝭ Tenementꝭ & Hereditamentꝭ as alsoe of all and singuler my goodꝭ cattalls Teithes leases and chattells as heareafter by and in thees p̃sentꝭ ys and are mencioned specified & declared, fyrst I

render and bequeath my soule to Almightie God to Christ my savior and redeemer and my bodie to be buried in the yearth w'thin the Chancell of the pishe churche of Burton in the place where ytt maie bee thowght convenient att the discrecion of the executors of this my last wyll & Testament" etc.

"I doe gyve & bequeath by this my last wyll & Testament to my executors heareafter in these p)sents named all & singuler those my messuage landes Tenemente rente reu)cons & hereditamente with there appurtenance in the said Countie of Chester to suche use and uses and in such mann) & forme as heareafter foloweth, ffyrst I gyve to my sonne John Massie all my lande in Newton w'th there appurtenance whatsoever w'thin the pishe of West Kirbie to haue & to hold to the saied John Massie and his heyres males for ever to be holden of the cheef lords of that fee by service therefore dwe & accustomed & for wante of heyres males of his bodie lawfullie begotten then to the heyres males of the lord & owner of the mann) of Puddington bearinge the name of Massie for ever according to a farther devise thereof in lawe made by me the said William Massie provided alwaies that yf the saied John Massie doe die before such wyfe as hee shall hereafter happen to marrie then I wyll & Bequeath all the saied lande & Tenemente etc in the pishe of Westkirbie to such his said wyfe for & during her nrall lyfe, the remainder thereof after her decease to the use aforesaid."

"Itm I gyve to my saied sonne John my lease wch I have of the Quenes Mat^ie of certen lands in the pishe of Westkirbie to have & to hold" etc subject to the payment of Testators debts funeral expenses & legacies. [My will] "ys that my executors shall w^thin one yeare next after my death cause one convenient Tombe or monument of Alabaster for my degree and vocacion wherein my corpes to bee buried and laied in the north Ile or chappell of the said pishe Churche of Burton for the makinge whereof I gyve by this my wyll xiij^li vj^s viij^d to bee imployed on the same also I gyve & bequeath for the makinge of better lightes and windowes in the said north Ile or chappell vj^li vj^s viiij^d.

"Itm I gyve to my sonne George for heyre lowmes the brwehowse standinge & the backhowse with all the vessels

thereto appteyning the bedsteades in the chappell chamber & in Yardleis chamber, all the tables waynscote tressles & four great coffers in my chamber where I lye & in the closet, the cubberts in the plor & in the closet twoe beste brasse pottę & all in the lardar howse as ytt standeth ij best broches the Racke and Ireons of the Kychin & plor, the daie howse wth all the tryne ware & woden vessels, Itm̃ in the butterie the cubborde with a bason & yewer & ij great candelstickę the pottę & quartę of pewter. Item my beste salte of sylver & gylte to remaine to the howse. Itm̃, my beste sylver cuppe with a couer to remayne in lykewyse to the howse. Item" [sundry husbandry gear etc].

"Item I gyve to my sonne Venables his twoe youngr sonnes John & George my farm in Warrfard late in the occupacion of Raphe Psons duringe theire nrall lyves & the longest lyver of them paying the old and accustomed yearlie rentę" etc.

"Item I gyve to my sonne Meoles to hys iiij daughters twoe kye a peace & to hys sonnes to euye of them xls excepte to Thomas his sonne to whome I gyve three powndes vjs viijd dureing my lease wch I have of the moitie of Wallesie psonage."

"Item to my sonne Poole to hys daughter ij kye to hys sonnes ether xls. Item to my sonne Monelex to euerie of his daughters ij viijth kye [*sic*] & to his sonne xls. Item to my sonne Bamvill to euie of his daughters twoe kye. Itm̃ To Rymȳghton besydes his wagę fyve markes in money. To Rychard Walker fyve markes besydes his wagę. Item to Richard Leigh xls. Itm to Richard Ardnoe xls. Item to my servante Robert Smythe xxs. Itm I gyve to my cosen Anne Masterson one Cowe. Item I give to widowe Pewe one cowe. Item to all my other servantę aswell men as wemen hyndservantę & others one yeares wagę besydes what ys due att the tyme of my death. Item to Margery for her pferment in mariage xxli Item to my daughter Ales to her daughters ij kye a peace to William Trafford her sonne xxtie nobles towards keepinge hym to the schole. Item to my cosen Sr Thomas Venables a horse colte, Item to his sonne and heyre my younger Blacke fyllie of twoe yeares olde. Item to my cosen Richard Massie of Sale my blacke Trottinge Mare, Item

to my cosen William Glegg my blacke fyllie nott yett twoe yeares olde. Item to William Moulding fyve markes to be had yearlie out of Westkirbie for & during his nrall lyfe. To Thomas Deyne xl^{s}, Itm̃ to Burton xl^{s} Itm̃ to my sonne Frances Bamvyl & his wyfe a close called Lesser Paynes feild and a lade of haye yearlie to bee had att Coughall for the tearme of fortie yeares yf ether the saied Fraunces or his wyfe shall soe longe lyve Itm̃ I gyve to Alice Woswall my servant yearlie duringe her nrall lyfe xx^{s} to bee taken yearlie out of the rente of my farme in Somerford in the saied Countie of Chester nowe in the occupac̃on of James Thorley or his mother. Itm I gyve to my daughter Ellen Bamvylde & to her husbund dureinge my lease of the moitie of Wallesey ꝑsonage vj bushells of Barley twoe Bushells of Peasen, iij bushells of wheat & a Bushell of Rye to be yearlie ꝑceyved & taken out of my saied ꝑsonage duringe all suche yeares as I have nowe to come in the sayde lease yf the saied Ellen and her said husband Bamvill or anie of them soe longe doe lyve. I doe gyve & bequeathe to John Wesbie & to Thomas Bunburie Esquiers & to either of them v^{li} in gold wch saied John & Thomas together with John Massie my sonne I ordayne & make my executors to execute this my laste Will & Testamente & doe request my worshipfull & well beloved ffrendes Mr William Gerard, chancello^{r} of Ireland & Mr William Glaseor vice chamberlayne of Chester to bee my overseers to see the same fulfilled according to the true meaninge hereof as my special truste ys in them to ether of wch my saied ou̅seers by these ꝑsents I gyve v^{li} a peace in gold. In witness whereof to this my ꝑsent Testament I the saied William Massie have subscribed my name the daie & yeare first wthin wrytten

WILLIAM MASSIE

Thees being Wittnes
Laurence Thorley Thomas Deyne
Robert Smyth & Alice Woswall.

[Proved 23 July 1579 by John Massie one of the Exors power reserved]

Addenda.

I am indebted to J. Paul Rylands, Esq., F.S.A., for the following abstracts of wills from a Danyers pedigree, a copy of which is in his possession. The original pedigree is on vellum, and was made in 1618, and continued by a later hand to 1726. It is now at Eaton, in the library of the Duke of Westminster.

The Will of Thomas Danyers the Elder, of Bradley, dated 1354-5.

Thomas Daniers[1] condidit tesm̃ a° 28. E. 3 [1354-5] et dedit capello ad orand̃ p̄ aīa sua et aīa Thome filii sue 5 m̃cas et dedit Margete filie sue maritag̃ Wm. fil. Ricī. de Buckley et Thome fil. suo custodiā terraz p̄d Wm̃i. in Chedle et Henrico filio suo maritag̃ heredis Wm̃i de Overtabley et Joh̄i filio suo Juventū et Margete filie Joh̄is filii sui cert̃ reddit' in Cheadle et Katharine uxi—de Tabley et Margerie uxori Wm̃i de Tabley xx^s et fecit Joh̄am uxem suā et Adam de Tabley executores suos (vide the box of willes).

[1] Thomas Daniers the elder of Bradley, within Appleton, co. Chester, married 1st. Margaret daughter of Adam son of William de Tabley and 2ndly. Johan le Norreys afterwards the wife of William Bostock. By his first marriage he had a son Thomas whose daughter and heiress married 1st. John Savage and 2ndly Peter Legh of Lyme. By his 2nd marriage he had a son Sir Thomas Daniers who married Katherine de Tabley.

The Will of Sir Thomas Danyers, of Tabley, dated 1383.

Thomas Daniers[1] miles condidit testamentum suū 1383 et legavit Ricō. fr'i suo un chival et residua bonoꝝ suoꝝ Jonette filie sue et fecit Katherinam uxorem ejus et Robrtū Daniers son Cosin executores suos et obiit eod̄ a° 1383 6. R. 2.

Administration of the Goods of Dame Katharine Danyers, dated 1417.

Katherina[2] nuper uxor Thome Daniers militis obiit intestaī et Admraco bonoꝝ suoꝝ comissa est Thome Daniell fil. p̄d Thome Daniell milit 1417. (Box willes A. b.)

The Will of Thomas Danyers, of Tabley, dated 1432.

Thomas filius Thome Daniell[3] miliī fecit testm̄ in festo sce Kath̄ine virgin̄ 1432. 10 H. 6. et p idem testm̄. legavit Johanne filie sue duas vaccas et Johanni filio ipsiuss Thome duas varas [vaccas?] et Joh̄i f'ri ipīus Thome xiij^{s} iiij^{d} et eisdem bonoꝝ suoꝝ Thome fil: suo et heredi ad custodiendum Ricm̄ Daniell Henric̄. Rogm̄ et Laurenc̄ filios p̄dci testatoris. Et fecit p̄d Thom̄. executor.

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[1] Sir Thomas Daniers of Tabley jure uxoris, married Katherine daughter and heiress of William son of Adam son of Adam de Tabley (Marriage Articles 27 Ed. III.).

[2] See preceding Note.

[3] Thomas Daniers of Tabley, married Elizabeth dau. of Sir Richard Aston of Aston, co. Chester.

The Will of Thomas Danyers, or Daniell, of Tabley, dated 1494-5.

Thomas Daniell Esq[1] made his last will in 10 H. 7. [1494-5 and thereby gave to Ellen Margy and M)garet his daughters 300 marks and the residue of his goods to Blanch his wife and to his children and to Thomas and Richard his sonnes [he gave] Annuities of vj m)kes a peece.

The Will of Piers Daniell, of Tabley, dated 1522.

Piers Daniell Esq.[2] made his will in 1522. 14 H. 8. and gave Cheritreehurst to Robert Daniell his [2nd] sone for life and to Piers Daniell his 3 sonne xl[s] annuity and xiij[s] iiijd land in Stathom to John Daniell his bastard for life and certenne lande there to Raffe his bastard for lieff And xiij[s] iiij[d] land in Lym to Homfray his Bastard for lief And to Anne Elizabeth and Purnell [his daughters] certen porc̃ons And to Julian his wife the third pt of his lands for lief And to Thomas his sone and heire apparent his lands according to the Covenants betweene the s[d] Piers and Wm. Wilbram And x m)kes to Margaret his sister And to M)get Isabell & Anne his bastard daughters certen porc̃ons.

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[1] Thomas Daniers, or Daniell, of Tabley, married Blanche dau. of Sir Peter or Piers Warburton of Arley, co. Chester, by whom, as well as the children named in his will, he had a son and heir Peter or Piers.

[2] Piers Daniell of Tabley married Juliana daughter of Peter Newton, Secretary to Prince Arthur, son of Henry VIII, by whom he had a son and heir, Thomas, and other issue.

my savle. Itm̃ I haue ordaynet to be myn exsecutors Harr̃ of Scharysbrec ye fader et Well Daneel [?] for gr̃te trust to fulfyl my wil. Itm̃ I bequethe to aythir of ham xl^{s} for hor labur in ye witenes yis I haue set my sele ye date at Boldc ye xxij day of octobre ye ix yer of Kyng Harrc.

FINIS.

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REPORT FOR 1894-5.

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FOR THE

PUBLICATION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO

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RULES.

1.—That the Society shall be called the RECORD SOCIETY, and shall have for its object the transcribing and publishing of Original Documents relating to the counties of Lancaster and Chester.

2.—That the affairs of the Society shall be governed by a Council, consisting of a President and twelve Members, the former of whom shall be *annually* elected by the Council.

3.—That three Members of the Council shall form a quorum.

4.—That the subscription of Members of the Society shall be £1 1s. per annum, which shall entitle them to the publications for the year; but any Member whose subscription shall be two years in arrear shall thereupon be removed from the Society, and shall not be re-admitted until all arrears have been paid. The number of Members is limited to 350.

5.—That the subscriptions shall be due on the 30th of June in each year, and that no work shall be issued to any Member whose subscription is in arrear.

6.—That an Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of October, of which due notice shall be sent to all the Members. At this meeting a Report of the work of the Society, with a Statement of the Income and Expenditure, shall be presented. These shall be annually published, together with a List of Members and the Rules of the Society.

7.—That so long as the funds of the Society permit, two volumes at least shall be issued to the Members in each year.

8.—That no copies of the publications of the Society shall be sold to non-members, except at an increased price to be fixed by the Council.

9.—That no payment shall be made to any person for editing any work for the Society, but that the Editor of each volume shall be entitled to twenty copies of the work so edited by him.

10.—That the Treasurer's accounts shall be audited by two Members of the Society, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

11.—No alteration shall be made in any of the above Rules except at the Annual General Meeting. Notice of any proposed alterations must be sent to the Hon. Secretary a month before such General Meeting.

12.—That a Meeting of the Council of the Society shall be called by the Hon. Secretary at least once in every three months.

The Annual Subscription of £1 1s., entitling the Members to all the Volumes issued for that year, may be paid to the Hon. Treasurer, or to the credit of the Society at their Bankers, the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, at any of their branches.

Report for the Year 1893-94.

Read at the Annual Meeting, held in the Audit Room of the Chetham Hospital, Manchester, October 2nd, 1894.

SINCE the last Annual Meeting, held on the 30th November, 1893, three volumes have been delivered to the members. These are Vol. XXVI. Royalist Composition Papers, Lancashire, Vol. II., C to F; Vol. XXVII. Lancashire Lay Subsidies, Vol. I., Henry III. to Edward I., 1216–1307; and Vol. XXVIII. Plundered Ministers' Accounts, Part I., 1649–1654.

The first of these, the "Royalist Composition Papers for Lancashire," Vol. II., is in continuation of Vol. XXIV., fully described in the last Annual Report, and like that volume, it has been edited by the Rev. J. H. Stanning, M.A., Vicar of Leigh. As already stated, these Papers relate to the property of the Royalists, who, between the years 1643 and 1660, had their estates confiscated by the Parliamentary party then in power, and were only allowed to redeem them by a heavy fine or composition. They supply many useful genealogical particulars, as well as much curious historical information, and they are certain to be extensively used by all writers on local and family history. They have been arranged in strict alphabetical order, and this volume contains the Papers for the letters C, D, E, and F. Those relating to James Stanley, seventh Earl of Derby, "the martyred Earl," as he is usually called, are exceedingly voluminous, filling over 120 printed pages. They are very important, as they not only relate to his estates in Lancashire, Cheshire, Flintshire, the Isle of Man, &c., &c., but also to the large quantity of plate, household goods, &c., found in the Isle of Man, of which a complete inventory is here for the first time printed. Other interesting Papers in this volume are those relating to the Clifton and Fleetwood families, the Copyholders of Clitheroe, and the Poor of Cuerden. At the end of Vol. III., now in the press, a full index of both names and places will be given.

The second volume, the "Lancashire Lay Subsidies," Vol. I., 1216-1307, has been edited by Mr. J. A. C. Vincent. This book, which has been several years in preparation, not

only contains an account of the early Lay Subsidies relating to Lancashire, but is full of much valuable information relating to the general taxation of the country in the thirteenth century. It will, therefore, be found of more than usual interest for all students of the early history of England, as it contains a mass of information taken from original records, which has never previously been printed. There is a very full Introduction and Index, both of which will be found useful.

The third volume, the "Plundered Ministers' Accounts for Lancashire and Cheshire," Part I., 1643–1654, has been edited by Mr. W. A. Shaw, M.A. The information here printed from the original documents in the Record Office, London, the British Museum, and the Bodleian Library, Oxford, relate to the period of the Civil War, when the clergy of the parish churches in all parts of the country, who supported the Royalist side, were ejected from their livings, and their places supplied by those who were in sympathy with the Parliamentary party, then slowly gaining the upper hand. There is, therefore, hardly a parish in Lancashire and Cheshire of which some interesting particulars will not here be found, and that, too, relating to a time when, owing to the Civil War, the parish registers are very imperfect. The documents contained in this volume come down to 1653, and in the second Part they will be continued to the year 1660. In that Part will also be printed a series of valuable records which Mr. Shaw has been fortunate enough to discover in the Record Office and at the Lambeth Library.

The volumes now ready for the press are the third volume of the "Royalist Composition Papers for Lancashire," and the second and concluding part of the "Plundered Ministers' Accounts for Lancashire and Cheshire." In addition to these the attention of the Council has been directed to a series of very valuable transcripts of early Lancashire and Cheshire Wills, *none of the originals of which are now to be found in any Court of Probate.* These have been transcribed by Mr. J. P. Earwaker from the originals, which he met with from time to time amongst the family and other muniments, which he has had the opportunity of examining during the past ten or fifteen years. They relate to all parts of the two counties, and supply very useful genealogical and historical information, not to be found elsewhere. They will, it is estimated, form two volumes, and it has been decided to print them, and they will be put in hand very shortly.

In the last Report it was stated it had not been found possible to proceed with the printing of the "Clitheroe Court Rolls," but that it was probable that they might be printed by subscription instead. The Council have now much pleasure in stating that Mr. W. Ecroyd, who has very carefully transcribed these early Rolls, has decided to print them by subscription, and that the first volume is now more than half finished. This will contain the proceedings of the Halmote Court for the manors of Chatburn, Worston and Pendleton (held twice in each year at Clitheroe Castle) down to the year 1567, as well as those for the manor of Colne down to the same date. Other similar Court Rolls will appear in subsequent volumes, so that in a short time much very valuable information relating to North Lancashire during the Tudor period will be available for historical students.

The following is the complete list of the Society's publications already printed or arranged for, up to the present time:

1878–79.	I. Commonwealth Church Survey. II. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1545 to 1620.
1879–80.	III. Lancashire Inquisitions. Stuart Period. Part I. 1603 to 1613.
1880–81.	IV. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1621 to 1650. V. The Register of Prestbury, co. Chester, 1560 to 1636.
1881–82.	VI. Cheshire and Lancashire Funeral Certificates, 1600 to 1678. VII. Lancashire and Cheshire Records. Part I.
1882–83.	VIII. Lancashire and Cheshire Records. Part II.
1883–84.	IX. Preston Guild Rolls, 1397–1682. X. Index to the Lancashire Wills proved at Richmond, 1457 to 1680.
1884–85.	XI. Exchequer Depositions, 1558 to 1702. XII. Miscellanies, Lancashire and Cheshire, Vol. I.
1885–86.	XIII. Index to the Lancashire Wills proved at Richmond, 1680 to 1748. XIV. Annales Cestrienses.
1886–87.	XV. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1660–1680. XVI. Lancashire Inquisitions. Stuart Period. Part II. 1614 to 1622.
1887–88.	XVII. Lancashire Inquisitions. Stuart Period. Part III. 1622 to 1625. XVIII. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1681 to 1700.

1888–89.	XIX. Civil War in Cheshire. XX. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1701 to 1720.
1889–90.	XXI. The Register of Leyland, co. Lancaster, 1653 to 1715. XXII. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1721 to 1740.
1890–91.	XXIII. Index to the Lancashire Wills proved at Richmond, 1748 to 1792. XXIV. The Royalist Composition Papers relating to Lancashire. Vol. I. A and B.
1891–92.	XXV. Index to the Wills at Chester, 1741 to 1760. XXVI. The Royalist Composition Papers relating to Lancashire. Vol. II. C to F.
1892–93.	XXVII. Lancashire Lay Subsidies, Henry III. to Edward I. XXVIII. Plundered Ministers' Accounts, Lancashire and Cheshire. Part I. 1643–1654.

Two volumes have been issued in each year, except on two occasions, when a single volume of more than average thickness was substituted for them.

The Council regret to record the death of Mr. W. A. Abram, for many years a member of the Council. He edited the Preston Guild Rolls for the Society in 1884.

The Society has lost many of its members by death and other causes during the past few years, and the Council wish to direct special attention to the fact that the number of members is now below the 350 names to which the Society is limited, and they are most anxious that this should be remedied. The volumes issued to the members are of great value for the history of Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Council think it cannot be a difficult matter for the present members to interest their friends in a Society which has done, and is doing, such good work.

☞ The Council must again refer to Rule 5, under which no volume can be delivered to any member whose subscription is in arrear.

RECORD SOCIETY—LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

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	£	s.	d.
Balance (Bank-book), 30th June, 1893	555	12	3
Subscriptions received, July to December, 1893	247	16	0
Subscriptions received, January to June, 1894...	113	8	0
Books Sold	1	1	0
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James Clegg, Printing Vol. xxiii.				49	4	3
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Packing and sending out Volumes, 1893	2	2	0			
Expenses sending out Vols. xxiii., xxiv., xxv.	2	19	9			
				11	1	9
J. R. Williams & Co., Printing Circulars...				0	19	6
Bank Commission...				0	17	7
Balance (Bank-book), 30th June, 1894				666	9	2
				£925	8	11

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5th July, 1894.

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FOR THE

PUBLICATION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

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